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Importance of Unity

I feel one of the most magical, even musical, words in the English language is "harmony." The very sound of it seems to chime. And that reverberation has the power to permeate our souls. But more important than the way it sounds, is what it means. Unificationists may feel that the terms "unity" and "harmony" represent the rounded off edges of a precious stone, because to attain them takes willpower and perseverance. We all long for harmony and unification; stability is a basic need of life. I feel that in some way all human beings secretly desire to live as one family, rather than to live as one individual among billions who exists in his own exclusive bubble of "self," buffeted around but afraid to touch or be touched by another.

Unity is tremendously important. By Principle, God will be able to bestow abundant blessings upon us when we are a component of a harmonious unit. But it is not easy to form such a structure. Any obstacle which blocks us from achieving success must be eliminated. It takes the cooperation of each of us to harmonize and unite, whether it is with the goal of our mission, the central person, the True Parents, or God Himself. Yet we *will* achieve unity when we all think and move in one direction toward our goal. Unity—harmony—is born out of sacrificing for and serving one another.

Tremendous power is generated when many people unite and focus upon one central point. We must try to smooth over any discrepancies that exist between ourselves and others, to knead out the rough spots of disunity. When we are successful, we render Satan powerless, for unity is exactly what Satan fears most.

Harmony results on the basis of unity. And harmony is that quality which brings peace, freedom, and the fulfillment of the purpose of creation. Creativity can emerge once there is unanimity. God will enter our midst when He feels attracted by our harmony. And God will be able to abide within us if our spirit and body are united harmoniously. According to God's own law, He is unable to reach us when we are in a state of flux and disharmony. Harmony is the result of unification and is the basis for God to enter our lives, families, societies, and even this world.

Full harmony takes the cooperation of all. But it is worth some pain because it makes us feel as though we are "in heaven." We feel ecstatic—in unison with the whole universe and with our God.

Once we go to the spirit world, we will see the effect of our ability to achieve unity here on earth. In fact the result will accompany us.

God cannot enter a situation in which there is no unity. For example, if there is no unity between a stamen and pistil, or between a husband and wife, no new creation can result. Trying to lift a full ten-gallon pot using only one of your hands, would most likely spell disaster. You must coordinate the use of your two hands. They have to unite on the single purpose of lifting the kettle off the stove. On the basis of their unity, the "harmonious" outcome is that once the soup or stew is dished out, you will be able to eat!

Unificationists are trying to unite with God, True Parents, and each other. Once we do, we will no longer be so distant from them or separated from each other. There is disunity and disharmony when even one person in the church community is separated from the rest. How can we prevent that? Determination and patience—with each other and especially ourselves.

We long to be perfect. We have such a high standard to reach. Predictably, Rome was not built in a day. Neither is unity. We need to heal and mend one another's hearts. That is the restoration of relationships; that builds unity. And that brings harmony. If we all make effort, nobody will be abandoned. Harmony is guaranteed by the flow of energy through the give and take process centered on God. Once it is created, its vitality can reach everyone.

Consider each person in a group to be one musical note. If you try to play a melody by using every note but one of them is sour, the whole song will be ruined.

In building unity, we should not only use building materials like smiles and jokes. Unity built exclusively by going to movies, sharing meals or good times has little chance to be substantiated or long-lasting. Don't construct your unity on shifting sands. If you do, the tears that result from your disappointment may wash away the foundation.

Thwart anything that could potentially prevent unity. There are days when you do not feel well—physically or spiritually. On occasion, someone may reject you or spew out an uncalled-for comment. That be the moment you feel like hitting him, or want to erupt with your own unkind words in retaliation. But the moment you employ those tactics is the very instant you shut out the idea of "accord." Why provoke the anger of another person? That can never bring consonance. Recognize that this moment may be one of spiritual frailty or weakness for him, and as a result he is in much more pain than you. Just turn around and walk away. If possible,

repent for your own inadequacies and your inability to love and accept him. Forgiving someone may be the hardest thing to do when you are rejected or hurt, but that is the element which can begin to turn the situation toward potential restoration. And that is also the very quality that can nurture harmony and unity.

Often the deepest harmony is created by walking with another person on the rocks and stony ground of the road toward perfection. Yes, the bottoms of our feet can be swollen, inflamed, or even blistered. But the calluses that form there also inscribe on our heart a sense of knowing and sympathy for the others who also have been bruised while uncovering the treasure known as unity.

Unity with God

The simple way to find joy and happiness is to unite with God. Get rid of all the obstacles which stand in the way. Our relationship with God should be free flowing. We should do anything to unite with God and to be the recipient of His love. Once we become a powerhouse of love for God, our problems will fade away.

As we receive more love, our capacity of love increases. When we feel loved, we are automatically elevated and have a much easier time to harmonize with others and adapt to our present circumstances. One way to meet God is to unite with someone who lives a principled life. If you follow that same pattern and center upon God, He can pour out His love unceasingly. With God you can do anything, but without Him, you may find yourself in trouble. Although the concept may seem abstract, I have observed that every success ultimately depends upon our relationship to God. It is not how smart you are. It is not how good you are at communicating, your level of sophistication, or the psychological warfare you might use. It is not what you know about organizations and structures. The most decisive element is that all-important *vertical* connection.

The greatest leader is the one who has the best connection to God. Look at Father; he motivates people with love.

God can only work on the foundation of harmony, but if even one

person rebels against the group effort, there is no true success and God is forced to withhold His blessings. It may be quite difficult to understand the whole of history and why God has not been more visible. Even now, we may wonder why He often seems to be hiding from mankind. But we fail to comprehend that His appearance is contingent upon our unity. He has long sought to reveal Himself, but only those few moments when a harmonious outcome of the Cain/Abel struggle resulted was He able to manifest more of Himself. But know with assurance that it was God who embraced both Jacob and Esau during their tearful reunion, and He drew them even closer once they clung tightly to their parents; in the eyes of God, that was the first time in human history that a family was united through the restoration of relationships.

We must realize that the prerequisite for harmony to substantiate in all areas of life is the existence of unity between God and man, and between man and man. Those relationships are interrelated and interdependent and demand absolute harmony. If that does not exist, interrelationships cannot function properly.

On the basis of unification and harmony, we can experience so many beautiful things, because once we achieve them, we absolutely live according to the Principle. There is little possibility for a husband and wife to experience much joy and happiness if they do not unite or create a harmonious life together. Consequently, they forgo the beautiful blessings God desires to endow to a couple or family.

Unity with God must come first; we have to endorse His ideal and His principle and then unite with each other. If we live by the Principle, the light of God comes into our lives. But if the circuit breaker—Satan—stealthily comes into our lives, he can shut off the power and we then find ourselves in spiritual darkness.

No matter if a person is in the Abel or Cain position, the only way he can be successful and not offend other people is by giving glory to God. Each of us must recognize it is God, not we, who actually accomplished the goal. Father uses this pattern. Whenever someone praises him, he never accepts it as his own. Instead, he humbly offers it to God through a silent prayer.

If you are praised and take all the credit, you may develop a sense of false pride. Yet this will serve only to segregate you from God and others. If you see someone who has done far greater things than you have been able to accomplish, recognize that person's abilities and even praise him. Realize the conditions of his faith were such that God was able to freely use him to accomplish certain results. But if you personally have done great things,

refrain from boasting. Neither accept any praise you receive without offering it to God. If you puff out your own chest, you could separate yourself from your peers and especially from God. People then might find it hard to accept you, which will make it that much more difficult for you to achieve harmony with them.

Unity—Within and Without

Harmony between mind and body is essential; it is an intrinsic ingredient for true maturation. Once you "get yourself together," you can become productive on a higher level.

If you decide to build your house by the water's edge, you may be so worried about the possibility of flooding from tides that you construct it on stilts. But that may not be the best or most long-lasting solution. Unless it is solid and stable, your house could blow into the water with the first good wind.

We are like that, too. Reflect on the strength of your personal foundation. How united is your mind and body? Are you ruled by the desires of your body, or is your mind able to maintain control? If one cell in the body is sick, a person could eventually develop cancer. And then it is only a matter of time before that cell rots away the entire body. That one cell **ultimately** has the power to contaminate billions of cells. Therefore even the smallest things—mind-body unity, for example—are important in terms of the well-being and congruity of a family, a society, a nation, and the world.

The most elementary aspect of human society is a single person. But a great deal of the success of that society depends upon the relative physical, spiritual, and mental health of each person. This is very important because everything in the universe is interrelated. When both your spiritual mind and physical mind are in harmony, you come to stand in the center of the universe. You virtually develop a rapport with the whole world, and when you project your divinity, it will respond in a way that you can definitely feel. That is what happens once your mind and body are united and you fulfill your individual purpose.

If we study the Principle and recognize that the truth contained within constitutes the basic laws of the physical and spiritual universe, we will also understand that nothing can exist without union. The very existence of the universe depends upon unification. Mankind is no different.

Man is supposed to be the mediator between the spirit world and the physical world. His success in this role starts with unification based on the give and take between his spirit and body. Once they are totally harmonized and communicate with God, unity can result. And that is also when the person comes to embody a perfected heart.

For the spirit and body to work together, there must be total give and take between the five physical senses and five spiritual senses. The spiritual senses must observe and relate to all happenings in the spirit world as the five physical senses do in the physical world. Communication within is just as essential as external unity. When I eat a good meal, I telegraph that fact not just to my brain but also send a duplicate message to my heart. Immediately my spirit feels tremendous. It is not just my brain that records how good the food tastes; I experience joy throughout my body *and* my spirit. Their give and take is the foundation for unity and harmony to be generated—even in the simple and everyday experience of eating.

But we experience unity with the universe in many ways every day. Perhaps it is a unique concept, but in a sense you even "unite" with air as you inhale and exhale. Of course this changes with the weather and the time of year. In spring and autumn you may wish to breathe deeply—filling your senses with the distinct aromas of either the budding of new life and the pungent smell of newly tilled soil, or the burning embers of crushed leaves. In summer you may breathe heavily, trying to inhale something other than humidity or dry and dusty air that makes you thirst. And you may experience a shortness of breath from winter's rawness.

When your ear "unites" with sound, a new world opens up to you. If you hear melodious sounds from an orchestra, you may be filled with dynamism and feel you have enough vitality to conquer the world. If you unite with the sound of your spouse's voice, that brings yet a different response. Listening to your loved ones fight strikes a wrong chord, with which you no doubt find it hard to unite.

But each experience fingers a different melody on our heartstrings. We simply cannot exist without responding to environmental circumstances. All these entities of the universe are interrelated.

How can you love a person without first seeking out and establishing unity with him? Harmony is concerned with totality—from personal appearance to interpersonal relationships. Different aspects of an entity have to merge in order to create harmony. There is a harmony within this universe—water and land, forests and deserts blend to comprise a total picture. If one of the continents was to disappear, the earth would seem unbalanced.

We each wear certain colors better than others. Studies prove that our skin coloring, the shade of our hair, and the color of our eyes are enhanced

by particular colors. Specific shades of colors—whether pastels, muted, or brilliant and resplendent—highlight our appearance, whereas other colors may tend to make us look washed out and sallow. We need to discover those which suit us and then harmonize our wardrobe and appearance. Colors have certain vibrations and influence our emotions; even the colors which are worn by others have an effect upon us and no doubt influence the degree of harmony we may establish with them.

Have you ever considered that you should strive for harmony in whatever you do? The simple action of serving coffee or making a pot of tea can be done without thought, or can be performed with a coordinated unity of action coupled with love. When planning a meal for instance, the element of harmony in the colors of the food, as well as the textures and flavors, should be complementary. We are influenced by whether we eat a candle-light dinner or fast food. Not only the food itself, but the tone and ambiance of our surroundings play a great role—the lighting, the presence or absence of background music, and even the dinnerware and cutlery. For instance when we use paper plates, we feel differently from the times we dine on bone china. A certain mood is either further enhanced or downplayed by the spiritual quality of the food and the amount of care and love that was invested in the preparation of the meal.

Harmony actually plays a key role in all our actions. If we do something haphazardly, we are affected by the kind of outcome produced. But if we do things with deliberation and strive to create a balance, the outcome will be that much richer for us.

Love's Influence on Unity

Unificationists have the desire to unite and have been given the task of unification. But to successfully accomplish this, we must first overcome the effects of the fall still existing within ourselves. If we fall in love with God and True Parents, that love can ultimately reach all people. It is not always easy to keep on loving, but we recognize that is one remarkable attribute of our Parent, God. He gives out unconditional love. Can we do that? Yes, I believe it is possible. No matter how nice or evil a person is to you—how much he either cooperates or goes against you—I believe it is possible for you to keep on loving him anyway. By doing so, you reach out

the olive branch of peace, the hand of unity. And if all people could do that, harmony would extend throughout the world.

I have discovered that whatever we give away with a willing heart, God will return to us tenfold. If someone is in trouble—financial or otherwise—why not reach out your hand and offer him assistance to make him or his life more whole, more complete and harmonious. Something of similar or even greater value will be returned to you. Giving someone a bit of money, clothing, or even food may seem like a small thing, but actually in a moment of desperate need, is of great benefit and brings a sense of harmony to the other person's life. You could decide to give away certain things that you value most, even when another person does not absolutely need them. Were you to do that, such a deep feeling would well up inside your heart. You would then definitely experience some of God's emotions; His love and harmony would shine through you. But if you hoard all your material and spiritual benefits and don't reach out to people who hunger and thirst whether physically, spiritually, or emotionally, you will never know yet another aspect of this important quality of creating harmony.

The spirit of God can come only on the basis of unity. And unity must be created on the foundation of love. When real love exists, everyone will serve everyone else. People will sacrifice themselves for all others and unity will manifest naturally.

Work to remove the hardness in your heart. Don't allow a stone to reside in the place your heart should normally be. If you find one, get rid of it quickly. Through deep connection to God, any heart of stone can be melted by His love and turned into gold.

Leaving One's Position

The Principle clarifies that an aspect of fallen nature is leaving one's proper position. Lucifer, Adam, and Eve all managed to do this and we have inherited this tendency. Because it is impossible to live the Principle without a subject-object relationship, I urge you not to leave your position and then attempt to live your life of faith by yourself. You should have at least one person to whom you report. Even Father is an object and reports to God. And by observing Father's lifestyle, we can see that he constantly

looks up to Him By doing this, Father is automatically elevated. This is an example of the law of reciprocity described in the Principle. The same is true for us. When we respect and love others, we not only fulfill the higher purpose, but we are also elevated spiritually.

Many people in secular society feel lost and lonely. They try to communicate but others don't listen. Even when people return home from work, they don't always report what happened during the day—to their spouse, children, or friends. Yet they may yearn to do so and feel a gnawing sense that something is lacking in their lives. Probably one result of this human tendency is that psychologists, psychiatrists, and marriage counselors do a booming business. I feel that no matter what our status in life, each of us needs a listening ear. Each of us needs someone to share our troubles with. I believe each of us needs the equivalent of an "Abel" to whom we report and talk with.

This works in terms of unity with the Messiah as well. Once we unite totally with the Messiah and follow his direction, we will be raised to his level. Ultimately through the Blessing, we become children of God and the Messiah, and their heirs. Whatever the Messiah has also becomes ours. When he is persecuted, we should also receive that persecution. But the reverse is just as true: we also can receive whatever glory is afforded him.

The archangel was created to fulfill a certain position: God never intended for him to be a human being. How then could he leave his position and arbitrarily take another one just because it looked more enviable? He felt that if he took Adam's position, he would receive a higher status and more love. He wanted to be a son of God instead of just a servant.

We may look at his motivation and wonder how in good conscience he could do that. But we are in the same situation today. Each of us has a position, and either we can be wise and keep it, or step over boundaries into someone else's territory. Until we reach perfection, we Unificationists are going to be actively engaged in the restoration of the Cain/Abel relationship. But the spiritual hierarchy will continue to exist even after we attain perfected hearts. In fact, it is my understanding that it will serve as the backbone of the Kingdom of Heaven both on earth and in spirit world.

If someone has received a deep revelation from God, he temporarily takes the "Abel" position during the time he shares the contents. Even the designated central person listens because God is speaking through the other person. But if one person just arbitrarily decides he wants to be a central person over the same jurisdiction as another person, *two* subjects emerge. They will repulse each other, which can bring little more than confusion and chaos. A person who rebels puts himself in the position of leader, tak-

Mg the role of the fallen archangel. But some kind of war will ensue and ultimately one of them will be eliminated.

There are presently two subjects in the universe: one is God and the other is Satan. Yet there is no peaceful co-existence possible. As its creator, God is the rightful ruler of this world and yet Satan has claimed the same position.

That very element of fallen nature is still within us today. The original rebel put himself in the position of the second subject. We do the same; we often no longer want to stay in the object position but would rather assume the responsibility of being a subject. That is why we rebel. We may feel we are better than the central person, more qualified or better able to lead. Sometimes we notice that the central person makes mistakes, and we silently think that we would do a much better job. There are other times when we may *not* keep so silent about our feelings. But by not listening and not obeying in heart, we already succeed in breaking God's law. If you follow the central person externally but not in heart, you will probably develop resentment. Unless it is resolved, you have essentially lost that period of time. You may wonder why you don't seem to make much progress or why you continue to only tread water in the spiritual sense. What is hard for many to recognize is that the entire *internal* result of a day's efforts can be lost so easily. We may have been unable to detect Satan's invasion and quite content with the physical result we were able to attain, quite unaware of the fact that God actually places much more importance on the *internal* result, and that what he looks for is not how much we could do, but rather if unity was created.

The time we have on earth is precious; we need every day in order to ultimately reach perfection. We have to understand that if we lose a day, so does God. But it is a chain reaction; restoration itself is also forced to default.

You can *think* about killing someone, but in such a case, thought and action are usually miles apart. The fall between Eve and the archangel and the fall between Eve and Adam were also two quite different things. Internally you may be resistant to obey a certain instruction, but your better judgment tells you to follow anyway. You still may have a grudge in your heart, but the important thing is that you follow the direction given by the central person. Restoration can be accomplished much more easily when you do. Although you do not physically kill someone by refusing to carry out his direction, you spiritually enact what your heart feels.

But it is your choice. Sometimes just the action of compliance can calm your heart and cause you to realize your rebellion is a mistake. Learn to temper yourself and do your best to clear the air of spiritual poisons. You

will gain no benefit if you succeed in striking out to prove to your central person that you were right and he was wrong. Instead, look beyond the momentary circumstances. See the situation as God does. Envision yourself fully uniting and able to achieve the result God desires. If you believe strongly enough, it *will* happen.

A central person has to be stronger than the person who rebels against him, although not necessarily stronger in force or lung capacity. Rather, a central person must be a more powerful spiritual vehicle, and must be able to give out much more love. If one out of ten people who work together rebels, the other nine may feel incensed that he is disrupting the level of unity already achieved. Righteousness would prevail and they may encourage the person to reexamine and straighten out his attitude. The central person should not be forced to assume the entire responsibility to smooth things over; unity can be generated when each of the others involved also helps.

Abel is Abel—whether big and tall, short and stout—size, capability, intelligence, or level of common sense does not matter. The Principle states that God works through Abel and also says that Cain cannot receive directly from God. If you have no Abel figure, how can you receive God's blessings?

The person in the role of Abel has a tremendous responsibility. But the one restoring Cain's position *also* has a vital obligation. It is up to him to protect and shield the one in the Abel position. If Cain does not protect his Abel, he may just repeat the action of slaying his brother—even just spiritually. But this places such an emotional burden upon Cain. It can weigh him down with tremendous guilt. And if he is unable to fulfill that, he simply continues the conflict which began the many kinds of murders that have kept this world from establishing the unity God originally intended.

If we have a basic trust in God, True Parents, and the Principle, it is natural that we will also trust the central person. Of course the central person cannot do anything contrary: he must also trust his members. Even though he may be disappointed time and again, he simply should continue to trust his people and give them responsibility. In fact, he fails his responsibility if he does not. If he gives up even trying, everyone will lose.

Unity through the Spiritual Hierarchy

The effects of the rebellion that took place in the Garden of Eden are still within each of us today. We may call it by a new name but the label

"human nature" does not change the meaning. I believe there is definitely a place for individualism in the realm of perfection, but it has more to do with the display of our particular abilities and incomparability of character, rather than attached exclusively to the idea of freedom. Nobody wants to rob another of his own uniqueness as an individual—personality, talents, abilities, charisma, and the like. But even in the original hierarchy of creation, one entity was made to serve the other, and that is something which should not be neglected in the name of free will.

Unity with the central person is paramount. The focus of our life of faith is God or the person representing Him—whether the Messiah, or the central person who mediates between the people, the Messiah, and God. If only two people work on a particular job or project, one of them must be accountable for it *and* the other person. God then views this person as His representative and looks to him to accept the responsibility for the result. But God does not ask Cain to be liable. God funnels both His love and any judgment through the channel of Abel, not Cain.

This pattern is evident even in the military. If two privates are assigned work detail together, one of them will be ordered to take command. If the subordinate does not obey, he will be reprimanded. Our spiritual life functions similarly. God set up the structure: life comes through the central person. Of course angelic and spiritual beings can guide and help each of us to fulfill our part, regardless of whether we are in the Abel or the Cain position, but basically God looks for the ultimate result to be offered by the one in Abel's position, not the one in Cain's position. Since the central person holds a much greater responsibility, any judgment to be received will naturally be much greater for him than for his subordinate. However, even if they may have achieved results but they fail to unite with one another, their entire offering may not be acceptable to God. While unity purifies, disunity taints the final outcome as well as the results we accumulate daily.

Although you may want to be directed by God Himself and then simply desire to report only to Him, His principles do not operate that way. Our reporting system is based on patterns found in the business world and throughout organizations found everywhere in all societies. Even tribesmen may not always be able to report directly to their chief, but most likely have to follow a certain set of rules and proper protocol. Unificationists also have to report through certain channels and the spiritual hierarchy. I believe that if you were only to receive directions from God, He would give you more directions than you might want. You probably would respond to His instruction with enthusiastic affirmation, yet the next day feel overwhelmed

when you faced the mountain of responsibility. You might even feel depressed and hesitant to report how little you accomplished. That problem is much less severe when you report to God through the spiritual hierarchy, for the outcome is the responsibility of the central person, not you.

We do not realize the full impact and benefit of being connected with True Parents. If we did, we would relate to them much more. Whether we like it or not, there is a chain of command in our society, nation, world, and even within the cosmos. But it was not a whim from God. He must have had a purpose in setting this up.

There is a hierarchy in everything. For example, God established a familial hierarchy—children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents. God set up a chain of command between Himself and us—God, the Messiah, and mankind. It is tempting to change universal law to suit our own purpose, but to do so only brings disaster. Some people who inwardly rebel against certain existing laws find themselves in spiritual trouble. Yet if they truly desire to reach perfection, I feel that their rebellion actually only wastes time. If we would become more like children—obedient to the word of God as well as our conscience, our original mind—we would construct a solid and unshakable unity.

We have to realize that the hierarchy which Father has instructed us to follow is the will of God. How can we really qualify to love True Parents if we do not fulfill this will? It may be appealing to think that we can just love God and the True Parents and forget all others, but that is not in accord with the will of heaven.

We must ask ourselves to what extent we actually live the Principle and how much we compromise. What is the criterion for total unification with True Parents? And how is love generated between ourselves and True Parents? I don't believe it is enough to simply have an emotional experience when looking at their picture. We may be showered with warm and overwhelming feelings of love at such a moment, but in my opinion, those are not enough to complete the circuit of love. We must strive to accomplish the will of God, and in so doing, concentrate on creating true unity with Him, True Parents, and other people.

You probably do not compromise in loving your physical parents; you love them totally. It should be the same in loving the True Parents. Since they are not with you physically, it is best to look upon your spiritual brothers and sisters as their representatives, and then unite with and love them as you would True Parents. But developing a connection of heart without any tangible response or action connected to it, is more self-centered and does not provide much of a base for God to work. If you do everything with a loving and heartfelt feeling, you will naturally grow closer and closer to

God. But if you perform no acts of love—toward True Parents and others—the distance between you and God becomes ever greater.

We are meant to relate to God and True Parents through their representatives. But the problem is, these representatives are not of the same spiritual caliber as Father. Although they have progressed in spiritual growth, they have not yet perfected their hearts. They do not possess the same quality of unconditional love for you that True Parents do. They may not be as externally qualified as others, even yourself. Even so, it is still your responsibility to unite with them and develop harmony.

Consider that based on your unity God can raise up and educate your central person to become better. Learn attendance and support for your leader. One way to do that is to compensate for your leader's deficiencies. Perhaps he cannot organize things on his own; if so, help him. Maybe he has a big vision, but gets lost in small details. If you are good in details, offer verbally or even silently to help him out in getting certain things done. It is a much better solution than criticizing him or causing an all-out rebellion. If that happens, not only the leader, but each follower suffers. So many things are lost; so many dispensations prolonged.

Restoration of the Cain/Abel Struggle

It is unnatural when a relationship between subject and object is constructed only from resentment, disrespect, or other such negative qualities. The subject should be able to discern what is behind the words said by the object, and even those which remain unspoken. Perhaps a person has a had conscience about his personal feelings toward the central person, and therefore does not always reveal his true nature. On the other hand, when a leader is incapable of leading, his members may become disrespectful or disappointed.

I once had a foreman working for me who came to me and complained about the people under him. After the second time this happened, I fired him. In my point of view, he had the responsibility to harmonize his section of the factory. When I saw that he only found fault with his people, I recognized that he was not able or qualified to handle them, and I knew someone else should do that job.

There is a difference between gripes and constructive criticism. We must recognize that each of us is in the Abel, or subject, position over something or someone—whether it be a territory, enterprise, or home church

area. Therefore, we are always both Cain and Abel at the same time. If we can view our spiritual lives from this viewpoint, we can learn many things through occupying both positions.

Whether you as a Cain are right or wrong, or more or less intelligent than the central person, is not the point. The point is whether or not harmony is created.

If we read and reflect upon the story of Cain and Abel as it is recorded in the Bible and elucidated in the Principle, we may tend to put all the blame on Cain because he was the one who actually killed his brother. But we cannot neglect the fact that the behavior displayed by Cain was also contingent upon the actions of Abel. By reading between the lines we can discern that Abel might have been provocative in attitude and action. Even today, all who occupy the rather fearful position of central person must be cautious about aggravating their followers through their actions or an attitude of arrogance. Yet if Abel recognizes that his Cain is rebellious, and merely dismisses it by labeling him a "bad and defiant" Cain, he must examine his own behavior. It may be true that Cain is rebellious, but Abel must also look at how much his attitude resembles that of the first Abel. Is he a good mediator between his followers and God? Is he sharing the wealth of blessings God bestowed upon him? Unity is equally dependent upon *both* Cain and Abel fulfilling their positions.

Throughout history, mankind has lacked the knowledge and ability to restore this Cain/Abel conflict by making an adequate foundation of substance or unity with a person in the position of leader. Yet this very action is what could have helped people overcome their fallen nature, and made one important step in creating the foundation to receive the Messiah. But it is the same for us today. That is why resolving this problem is so crucial for our spiritual health and well-being. In order to construct one part of the spiritual foundation for the Messiah in our own lives, we must accomplish the task of successfully uniting with Abel.

Disunity

Disunity results in an imbalance. For example, if your spirit and body are not united, you cannot function properly. And if there is little unity between your intellect and emotion, you will feel out of synchronization. Dependency and interdependency are words straight from the heart of God. Nothing could exist long being *independent* from all other things. The things

of creation certainly do not disregard these principles. Only man is ignorant of how necessary it is that they function. There are people who go their own way and consequently cut themselves off, but this just causes them a certain anxiety and uneasiness. The solution is for such a person to come back to the group and once again relate with others. Unless he does, he may continue criticizing everything and everybody. He will look for all kinds of answers and systems, but will not find that any are satisfactory. He may discover all kinds of reasons to blame others for his inner turmoil, but they will not be valid. It is only when he returns to the arena of unity that he will uncover the answers he searches for.

Is it wrong to take personal initiative? No, but it is only proper if done in concordance with the purpose of the whole. Question whether what you desire to do ties in with the higher purpose. For instance, parts of the human body cannot just do as they please. Each one has to move within the framework of all the other parts.

If ten families live in an apartment building and one man feels, "I am my own man. And I am totally free to do what I want," he may begin to play his trumpet at 4:00 a.m. simply because he feels like it. Does he really have the "freedom" to do that? No. It is against the law of harmony. If he begins to tamper with the freedoms of others in such a way, he may suddenly find a representative from each of the other nine families pounding on his door in protest. The individual purpose *must* fit within the purpose of the whole.

There are municipal laws which specify that we cannot park our cars along certain streets during certain hours. Even though we may not realize why those laws are necessary, each law has a definite purpose. Maybe a bus disembarks passengers along that very part of the street. If you were to go against that law, you could endanger the people getting on and off the bus. When we go against certain laws we may be punished if we get caught. Breaking the laws which are made to safeguard the rights of citizens upsets the balance of harmony. But without regard for unity, we are actually stripped of our personal freedom and even our rights.

The first point in achieving unity is to create harmony between your body and spirit. If there is disharmony even within yourself, you may easily disunite because you have lost your focus. But when your spirit and body unite and you then come before God, He is free to give His blessings to you as an individual. Consider that when you go to pray. When you have problems to break through in prayer, ask yourself whether you as an individual are united; discern whether your spirit and body are in total harmony.

Sustaining Unity

U nification is our main goal. And we must consider how to reach it not just once, but *daily*. Once a point of unity is achieved, that is not the end-all. It can be lost easily, and even without realizing it, any number of things we do or don't do can dissolve it. Nurturing unity reminds me of tending a garden. Unless it is given adequate sunlight, air, moisture, and even love, it can dry up and fall to ruin. Certain sections may need more fertilizer than others. Yet when we take the time to invest ourselves to plant and even put on that extra fertilizer where it is needed, we are sure to be pleased with the end result.

During this time of restoration, unity is under constant change because we ourselves fluctuate so much—sometimes stagnating and dipping, sometimes growing and soaring. But we must be careful. We should never breathe a sigh of relief and feel, "Aahh—at last. Whew! It was tough going, but we finally made unity!" Satan listens to those kinds of thoughts, and even the next moment does his best to add a pinch of dissension or dissatisfaction. He may shout a war whoop and attack that precious bit of unity with all he's got. And when we don't recognize his intentions and simply allow him to dismember the body of unity we so painstakingly created, he rejoices and grabs all the more. We are never home free. Unity is a *constant* battle, one that is actively fought by both sides and fought *against* by the opposing forces.

However once we do reach a point of unity, we should record its sweetness in our memory bank and recall it during the moments we again struggle and may even want to give up. God still has the memory of that one moment of honey He savored with Adam and Eve before the fall.

Until the emergence of True Parents, He hungered to taste it again. Although He is able to experience it now, He cannot enjoy a banquet yet. Only when this world is totally harmonious will He be able to indulge in an entire feast. If we can remember how long He has been striving to establish unity with His children, we will be able to create certain unique dishes of harmony to please Him, and more able to endure our own pain.

Results of Unity

W hen only a small result is achieved in fundraising, witnessing, or for that matter any venture, I believe the number one cause is disunity,

whether by an individual or a team. It could be that within himself, a person faces unresolved inner conflict. If there is absolute unity and harmony, God is free to shower His blessings upon us. But when we are superficial and look at things merely in a horizontal way, it becomes much harder to unite. No matter how nice and pleasant some people may be, if they break away to become totally independent from the group and more "free-thinking," the natural result is that the level of unity will decrease. Even though people work hard, if those who work together do not achieve absolute unity, a total success can never result.

It is incongruous to think about loving your brothers and sisters and at the same time disregard accepting and loving the central person. And if you do not follow the central person, any effort you make will be lost. Harsh words? Perhaps. But in my experience and observation, the stringent aspects of the Cain/Abel principle have been revealed to me over and over. It may not be a pleasant thought to reflect upon all the times you could not achieve unity and what this ultimately represented for both you and God, but perhaps from this time forward, you will better grasp how crucial it is to make unity, as well as the possible result of any inability or resistance to do so. If you totally unite with the leader, you pay indemnity. That coupled with the strength of the central person's faith will help effect success.

When you look into the mirror, you may only see your own reflection. You may think it is only you at work during the day, and suddenly even come to feel very lonely and isolated from others. But never forget that God is at work *through* you. You can recognize that the Principle is at work *when* you work it correctly. And that is accomplished when a subject and an object achieve a total unity.

If the element of love permeates, you don't have to talk about "Cain" and "Abel." Everything will flow automatically. If God is at the center, there will be harmony, unity, and ultimately success will come to each person and to God. And when there is overall or group success, personal growth will also result.

I recall an interesting story from the Orient which outlines the difference between Heaven and hell. One man had the chance to see both of them. He looked through the peephole of hell and was absolutely amazed to see a table miles long which was weighed down with all kinds of fantastic foods—from stuffed pigs to stuffed figs! Any kind of food imaginable was on that table. Just looking at it made him drool. But he saw that every person was strapped in his chair and unable to move. And then he noticed that the chopsticks they were given to use were four feet long!

There was cursing and foul language because in attempting to use those four foot long chopsticks, everybody got in everybody else's way. People were poking one another in the eye, the ribs, the stomach, and elsewhere. No one could manage to get one morsel of food in his mouth. I would agree: that is hell!

But then he was magically transported to the gates of Heaven and was allowed to look through *that* peephole. The same kind of long table was heavy-laden with food, almost bending in the middle. But here there was laughter and merriment. Oh, those beings were also strapped to their chairs and had four foot long chopsticks, but when faced with the predicament of how to eat, they figured out a very clever solution. Instead of each one trying to use his own chopsticks to feed himself, they all used their chopsticks to feed *each other*.

I think it is quite a beautiful view of Heaven. To me it shows what a difference attitude can make. The people in hell may curse one another for centuries before they learn anything about being selfless. But the people in Heaven will be in eternal harmony.