

## **Cain Children and Abel Children -A personal reflection on our relationship with the True Children centering on the True Parents**

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Our relationship with the True Parents is very important. So is our relationship with the True Children. We, as members, are Cain children of our True Parents. The True Children, as the biological children of our True Parents, are in the position of Abel children of our True Parents. What can we learn from each other? What is it that the Cain children can learn from the Abel children in relation to the True Parents? Also, what is it that the Abel children can learn from the Cain children in relation to the True Parents? In other words, what is it expected of us in this era of Cheon Il Guk?

Cain Children and Abel children relate to the True Parents from the standpoint of children relating to their parents. This means that there is something in common between members and the True Children when it comes to relating to the True Parents. It is filial relationship, which may also be referred to as filial piety or filial love.

The filial piety that members have towards the True Parents is called faith. On the other hand, the filial piety of the True Children towards the True Parents is called love. I am not implying that members do not have love for the True Parents. Neither am I implying that True Children do not have faith in the True Parents. What we need to understand is that members' relationship with the True Parents is first and foremost a faith-based relationship. Our love for the True Parents sits on the foundation of our faith in the True Parents. Here also, a distinction needs to be made between our faith in the True Parents and our faith in the religious movement they have established.

Our faith in the Church is a byproduct of our faith in the Divine Principle, which creates the foundation of our faith in the True Parents. This is why people who stop believing in the Divine Principle leave the Church, but not everybody who has left the Church has stopped believing in the Divine Principle. Furthermore, it also explains why those who have lost faith in the Divine Principle have also lost faith in the True Parents and vice versa. This is because not the Church, but the True Parents are the manifestation and incarnation of the Divine Principle.

Though some people might have heard of the True Parents before coming in contact with the Church, the True Parents can only be known better through a better understanding of the Divine Principle. We understand the type of individuals and parents they are through the Divine Principle. We understand the way and purpose they do what they do through and on the foundation of the Divine Principle. This is why our relationship with them is a filial relationship of faith. We love them not because they gave birth to us physically, but because we have faith in them. We love them because of the sacrifices they have been making for God, Jesus, the providence, humanity, etc. We love them because they have loved us first.

Since this article is not about the type of relationships that the True Parents have with their children but the type of relationships that the Cain and Abel children have with the True Parents, I will not develop on the love of our True Parents for us.

In contrast to members' relationship with the True Parents, the True Children's relationship with the True Parents does not begin with the Divine Principle. Unlike the Cain children, the True Children's filial relationship with the True Parents is not established through the Divine Principle. Neither is it established on the foundation of the Divine Principle. It is a birthright. They are the biological children of the True Parents. Hence, unlike members, the True Children came to know the True Parents by being born in the biological family established by the True Parents. Hence, the platform upon which they understand the True Parents is first and foremost their biological connection to the True Parents; not their spiritual connection. Their spiritual connection is not what determines their relationship with the True Parents. By spiritual connection I mean their faith in the True Parents.

The True Children do not need faith in the True Parents in order to be children of the True Parents. They do not need to believe that their parents are Messiahs—Adam- and Eve-Messiahs—in order for them to be and retain the status of children of the True Parents. Their filial relationship with the True Parents is not faith-based, but love-based. In other words, their filial relationship with the True Parents is neither defined nor qualified by whether or not they believe in the messiahship of their biological parents. It is defined and judged by whether or not they love their biological parents as their father and mother.

This means that we should not take a clue as to how to believe in the True Parents by looking at

the True Children. Though they might, it is not the responsibility of the True Children to teach us how to have faith in the True Parents. It is our responsibility, as Cain children who relate to the True Parents through faith first, to teach the True Children how to have faith in the True Parents. By the same token, though some members might, it is not members' responsibility to teach the True Children how to demonstrate filial love to the True parents. It is the responsibility of the True Parents to teach us how to love the True Parents.

This has been a shaded territory in our relationship with the True Children. We judge the True Children based on whether or not they believe in the True Parents. We disregard the fact that they love their parents but focus on the fact that they do not display the type of faith that some of us have in the True Parents. We ignore that their filial relationship with their parents is not faith-based but love-based. We even mistake their love for their biological parents to their faith in the True Parents. We think that a True Child who does not have in the True Parents does not love the True Parents. Faith in the True Parents and love for the True Parents are not channeled through the same pipe when it pertains to the True Children. It is the case for the Cain children; not for the Abel children.

The confusion we see in the Church today is the manifestation of the confusion that exists in the relationship between the Cain children and the Abel children centering on the True Parents. If we fulfilled our responsibility of faith-based filial piety while giving the True Children the space to fulfill their love-based filial piety, the reality of the Church would have been very much different. But because we were ignorant of the fact that the True Children's filial relation to the True Parents is different from ours, we interfered with their responsibilities and judged them wrongfully and prematurely.

This explains why True Father asked us to love the True Children. This explains why he said that our path to the heart of the True Parents is through the True Children. This is because it is through the True Children that we are supposed to learn how to develop a love-based filial relationship with the True Parents. And the result of that type of relationship with the True Children is that they will learn how to relate to the True Parents not only as their biological parents, but as the Adam- and Eve-Messiahs.

In closing, we should not judge the True Children based on whether or not they believe that their biological parents are the Messiahs. Members should not lose faith in the True Parents and the Divine Principle simply because a True Child has demonstrated lack of faith in the messiahship of the True Parents. True Children are supposed to show us the way of love into the heart of the True Parents; we are supposed to show them the way of faith into the providential realm of the True Parents. This is the type of harmony the True Parents want to see exist between their Cain children and Abel children. This is how we can be sure to establish the providence of Cheon Il Guk.

What say you?