

Is There a Difference Between Cosmic Blessing and HTM Blessing?

By Christian Nseka

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This personal reflection has been written to address a major question that many in our movement have been asking lately—“Is there a difference between the Blessing given by the True Parents and the One given by Blessed Couples and Clergy?” Using personal inspirations and my understanding of the Divine Principle and True Parents’ words, I have written this article, which was originally published under the title “Is There a Difference Between Cosmic Blessing and Marriage Blessing,” to help respond to the above-mentioned question and in the hope of informing the policy makers in our movement with regard to this matter. It has been rewritten to eliminate the confusion that some readers found with the term “Marriage Blessing” in the original piece.

The term Blessing, with uppercase B, refers to a marriage that has been officiated according to the standard established by the True Parents—Father and Mother Moon.

It is my understanding that the True Parents established the Blessing in order to (1) provide salvation to those who receive it by taking them out of the satanic bondage and (2) to establish God's lineage by giving birth to sinless children born in God’s realm of love.

The Blessing is the Blessing no matter whether the ceremony is held in Korea or in another country, and whether it is officiated over by the True Parents or by Blessing Officiators. At times, the Blessing has also been referred to as the Holy Blessing, the Cross-Cultural (Holy Marriage) Blessing, or the Marriage Blessing.

Today, we also speak of the (Hyojeong) Cosmic Blessing and the Heavenly Tribal Messiahship (HTM) Blessing, which is also known as the Clergy Blessing.

One difference between the Cosmic Blessing and the HTM/Clergy Blessing is that the Cosmic Blessing is officiated by the True Parents. The Cosmic Blessing will continue to exist even after Mother Moon joins Father Moon in the spiritual world. When that time comes, the successors of the True Parents will be officiating over the Cosmic Blessing.

Another difference between the Cosmic Blessing and the HTM/Clergy Blessing is the foundation that one establishes to receive the Blessing. In other words, the conditions that Blessing recipients have established before receiving the Blessing makes a big difference on the value, impact, and scope of the Blessing.

The requirements and preparations for the Cosmic Blessing differ from the ones for the HTM/Clergy Blessing. Here are the requirements and preparations pertaining to the Cosmic Blessing:

1. Education
2. Sexual purity/abstinence
3. Application process
4. Monetary offering (preset amount)
5. Confession/repentance
6. Fasting
7. Five Steps of the change of the blood lineage
8. Lifestyle

Here are the requirements and preparations pertaining to the HTM/Clergy Blessing:

1. Some education
2. Registration
3. Monetary offering (suggested amount)
4. Five Steps of the change of the blood lineage
5. Lifestyle

It can be said that the standard of the Blessing established by the True Parents comprises three major parts: the first one is that preparations are required before receiving the Blessing. The second one is to experience the Blessing by partaking in the Five Steps of the change of the blood lineage. And the last one is to live a lifestyle that puts God at the center of the love, life, and lineage of those who have received the Blessing.

It can also be said that the major difference is in the amount of preparations that those who are receiving the Blessing have made. This is because the amount of preparations determines the scope of the impact of the Blessing one receives. This explains the two different tracks of the Blessing—the Cosmic Blessing track and the HTM/Clergy Blessing track.

Because the Cosmic Blessing is about establishing God's lineage, it should be noted that every single person going to the Blessing is supposed to receive the Cosmic Blessing. Blessed Children, those born after their parents have received the Blessing, should only receive the Cosmic Blessing. The HTM/Clergy Blessing is really for married couples who are no longer at the age of bearing children. Hence, for the sake of lineage, any married couple that can still bear children should consider receiving the Cosmic Blessing. This is because, while the Cosmic Blessing extends generations, HTM/Clergy Blessing benefits mostly one level—the couples that have received it.

This means that the Cosmic Blessing reaches into the far distant future. It is not only about the next generation, but all the subsequent generations that will come on its foundation. This explains why the preparations required to receive either Blessing differ. A stronger foundation is needed in order for the Blessing that a couple has received to extend into the future, generation after generation. And, needless to say, the difference on the value, depth, and scope of the Blessing is made by the couples that are receiving the Blessing. What type of conditions did they do? Did they fulfill all the requirements for the Blessing? Did they cut corners? What type of foundation did they establish?

The foundation that couples establish, the preparations that they make, and the requirements that they fulfill in order to receive the Blessing create the difference in how much of the love, life, and lineage of God they inherit through the True Parents.

Remember that the Blessing was established not only to provide salvation, but to also establish a God-centered lineage. Hence, the Blessing can be said to be a very special heavenly grace that the True Parents have offered as an eternal gift to humanity. Couples that should receive the Cosmic Blessing but decide to receive the HTM/Clergy Blessing to avoid the work that it takes to receive the Cosmic Blessing will starve their future generations of the benefits offered by the Cosmic Blessing. Couples that have fulfilled all the Cosmic Blessing requirements and have received the Blessing will have future generations that will be in God's bosom even if their children and/or grandchildren have been problematic.

The Cosmic Blessing is more than just for the couples that receive it. It is for God. It is for the whole of humanity. It is for the lineages that they establish. Those lineages have God as the ultimate owner. God is eternal. So is the legacy of each of those lineages. This explains why, even though married couples have a choice between the Cosmic Blessing and the HTM/Clergy Blessing, singles only have one choice—the Cosmic Blessing. (Senior singles have an extra option of spiritual world Blessing, which is beyond the scope of this article.)

Though the HTM/Clergy Blessing is to be given to couples that have passed their childbearing ages, those couples are more than welcome to receive the Cosmic Blessing.

Think about how we wonder what Adam and Eve were thinking. Or why they ate the forbidden fruit. To some extent, some of us have even blamed Adam and Eve. Some people have even cursed Adam and Eve for having caused humanity's miserable predicament because of their having eaten the forbidden fruit. How many of us would want to be in a similar predicament as Adam and Eve when our future generations think about us?

Receiving the Cosmic Blessing, when given the opportunity, is not only the right thing to do, but the bare minimum that every human being should do. And your future generations will thank you for doing this bare minimum, because, in their time, your lineage will be like a big tree. With deep roots, hopefully.

Fulfilling the requirements to receive the Blessing allows us to inherit the foundation of the Blessing established by the True Parents and become co-owners of the Blessing. It also allows for the separation from Satan. And last but not least, it restores us into God's bosom and eternal favor.

The Blessing is the Blessing no matter what. The difference in the value of it depends on the foundation that those who receive it have established. The Blessing connects couples that have received it to a higher purpose. Knowing that, wouldn't it make sense to establish the right foundation for it?

Glory be to God.

Christian Nseka is the author of the book, [The Blessing: A General Overview](#)