
REV. MOON & THE UNIFICATION CHURCH

INTRODUCTION. Several years ago a couple of young people carrying Bibles came into my study. They were clean-cut and very polite. I was invited to a seminar to learn about a church which “had many similarities with my own.” They were from the Unification Church of rev. Sun Yung Moon. Though they carried Bibles they did not know one verse of Scripture. I have since received many communications from that church, one inviting me to an entire week on Cape Cod absolutely free. However, I can’t find any similarities, for their teachings are nothing but “damnable heresies” of which Peter so strongly warns.

THE MAN, REV. MOON. Mr. Moon was born in Korea in 1920. According to records there, he has divorced three wives. He was said to have numerous visions which began in his teenage years. Originally he was a Presbyterian but because he could not live with certain doctrines, he went among the Pentecostals. After founding his own church, he was convicted and sent to jail for three months for conducting a sex orgy. One of his early doctrines was that of “blood cleansing”. The teaching was that being pure before God, the only way a woman could be pure was to have sex with him. Then, all of her offspring would likewise be pure. A man could be cleansed by having sex with such a woman. In this way a sinless generation could be produced. It was in 1954 that Moon officially organized his Unification Church. In 1957 he wrote a book entitled “Divine Principles” in which he outlined his beliefs and the goal of his church.

The Unification Church, with its goal of cleaning up the world, is especially attractive to many young people. Youth are often idealistic and ready to give themselves to what seems like a worthy cause. They are sent out to work and beg, with all that they produce going to “the cause”. Of course, they have been thoroughly brainwashed and as far as humanly possible kept from outside influences including family. Moon and the church are wealthy and no one knows just how much money and property they have accumulated. Time magazine in 1976 said that they had purchased at least 19 million dollars worth of property including the New Yorker Hotel. Many businesses throughout the United States (and no doubt other countries) are owned by them including a large fishing industry here in Massachusetts. Rev. Moon has spent the last two years or so in prison having been convicted of defrauding the federal Government relative to their businesses and the failure to pay appropriate taxes. All of this does not exactly present a godly image.

HIS MESSAGE. In a nutshell, his message is that God wants to create a unified, loving world. For that purpose He sent Jesus Christ into the world to begin the perfect family (see “blood cleansing” above). However, Jesus failed to accomplish that and now God has sent a second “Jesus” to finish the job. He does not specifically say that he is that person but the literature implies it and that is what his followers believe. Here are some basic doctrines.

WHAT IS GOD? In an article “The Unification Church – What We Believe” we read, “What is God...everything exists in pairs...Therefore God Himself must contain the ultimate masculine and feminine qualities within His nature – the essence of manhood and womanhood. God may be infinite mind...an abstract energizing force as represented, for example, by Eastern philosophy.” The whole system, if one can call it that, has a great deal of Eastern mysticism.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? Rev. Moon does not believe that Jesus Christ was God or equal with God. He says that Jesus had a human father, probably someone other than Joseph. Of course, this is utter blasphemy and a denial of the truth of scripture (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, John 10:30, etc.). In “Divine Principles” it says that Jesus was just like the rest of us except that He did not have a sin nature, no original sin. Christ is the Son of God in the sense that He fully yielded Himself to God. Moon teaches that Christ’s mission and ministry were failures since he did not accomplish a perfect family. His death on the cross did not atone for sin but instead was a tragic mistake, the work of the devil which broke God’s heart.

Moon teaches that in the light of the above, God will send (has sent) a second Christ, “the Lord of the Second Advent” as he calls him, to finish the work that Jesus Christ started. It is claimed that this Second Christ will not come spectacularly in the sky but will be born of a woman just like any other person. He will establish the perfect marriage and the perfect family and bring peace and unity to the world accomplishing God’s will. It just so happens that Moon himself fits perfectly into all of this fanciful daydream. Many who have left this cult testify that they were taught to pray to “Mother and Father Moon”. One said, “We prayed aloud for 20 minutes, heard a leader read from Moon’s works, sang songs, then bowed before moon’s picture saying, ‘Good morning true parents.’ (Moon and his wife, we were taught, are the true parents of mankind.)”

MOON’S IDEA OF TRUTH. Moon’s followers look at the Bible much the same way Mormons view it. Without the added writings of the founder, in this case “Divine Principles”, one simply cannot understand the Bible. It goes without saying that they do not view the Bible as a final authority. New revelation is needed and that has come from Moon. This is true of all the cults and immediately points them out as spurious and of Satan and not God. Various Unification authorities state that Rev. Moon gets his teachings directly from God and that the Bible is meaningless without the instructions given in “Divine Principles”. One says, “The Bible, however, is not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth...Divine Principles, however, is the new, ultimate, final truth, to complete the Word of God.” As with all other cults, the writings of the founders do not clarify the truth, they only confuse and destroy it. “THY WORD IS TRUTH.”

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UNIVERSAL SALVATION. Along with many other cults, the Unification Church teaches universalism, that everyone will eventually be saved including the devil. Of course, this goes right along with the idea that they are building the kingdom of God on earth. Underlying all of Moon's teaching is the philosophy that mankind will eventually unite in one family centered around the event of the second coming. According to him, but contrary to the word of God (Matthew 25:46, Revelation 20:15), hell and evil will eventually be abolished. His teaching on the doctrine of predestination is that God has elected all men and angels to be saved.

MANY OTHER STRANGE DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES. His followers can only marry someone that Moon approves for them. He often conducts mass weddings and has married as many as 1,500 couples at once. He also sometimes splits up married couples, sending one to work hundreds of miles from the other. He teaches that sin came into the world when Adam and Eve had sex with Satan. This was the justification for the "blood cleansing" ritual in the beginning. His interpretation of the doctrine of the resurrection is really nothing more than the eastern philosophy of reincarnation (Divine Principles, pp. 170-190). Moon claims to have spoken with Jesus, all the great leaders of the Bible, Buddha, and others.

THE METHOD. As we said earlier, this cult, as all others, adds to the Word of God. In order to teach their heresies they must have some authority, so their own writings are placed alongside the Bible as further revelation. In reality, their words supersede the Word of God, for when there is a divergence, the Bible is ignored and their own words become the final authority. The Unification Church concentrates almost all of its efforts on young people, and has been quite successful.

Moon teaches that it is not wrong to lie if it is for "the cause". He teaches that they are justified in lying to Satan's children (those who do not follow Moon) because Satan lies to God's people. One ex-Moonie testified before a Senate group that they were sent out to sell flowers, candy, etc., to beg for a non-existent drug program and a work for underprivileged children which also did not exist. This practice is called "heavenly deception". The young people are drilled over and over again with Moon's doctrines, as much as possible kept from all outside influences, and work 15 to 18 hours a day. Under such pressure, there is little time to think.

Moon will champion any cause which will bring in the youth. One of his favorite themes is patriotism. I have a number of flyers and articles announcing PATRIOTIC RALLIES he has held. Another favorite theme is love and the goal of getting everyone in the world to love instead of hate, and thus bring

in world brotherhood and peace. People are often lured to meetings by being invited to a lecture on ecology or some other topic which will be for the benefit of mankind. Like most all of the cults, they prey on the ignorance of individuals. While they will not admit it, most people are ignorant of God's Word and truth. Most are ignorant and naïve about religious movements and the deception which underlies them. One idealistic college graduate said she was lured into the Unification Church by an acquaintance at school who invited her to a weekend retreat which was being held by a youth movement. She was an avid follower of Moon, but after some years was rescued from the movement. She told of the brainwashing, endless hours of working and begging (without pay) until she was ready to drop. She said there was a time when she was so committed to the organization that she would have killed for Rev. Moon.

THE DRIVE FOR RESPECTABILITY. Sooner or later, no matter how bizarre their beliefs, cults seek for some sense of status in the world. They try to portray themselves as more or less mainstream. One of the ways Moon has endeavored to do this is by setting up "front" organizations. For example, he has such a group which seeks to get all sorts of religious people and organizations together. It is called CAUSA. Under this name he seeks to unite those of all stripes in such causes as freedom of religion and patriotism. I have personally been invited to spend a week absolutely free on Cape Cod. All I have to do is listen to some lectures in the morning and evening. Often large rallies will be sponsored by this group with various religious leaders participating. I do not marvel that liberals and others fall for this, for they have no spiritual understanding. I am not surprised when I see the name Harvey Cox, the ultra-liberal professor from Harvard Divinity School. Nor is it surprising that Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Martin Luther King's organization) is involved. I only raise my eyebrows a little when I see the name of new evangelical Tim LaHaye and others in that camp. BUT I WONDER HOW SO-CALLED FUNDAMENTALISTS LIKE GREG DIXON AND EVERETT SILIVEN CAN BACK SUCH A THING JUST BECAUSE IT IS IN THE NAME OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. We can stand for that without giving credence to a gross heretic like rev. Moon. Believe me, "IT IS HIGH TIME TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP." It is obvious that Moon and the devil have been quite successful in deceiving, not only many of the general public, but a number of those who claim to know and stand for the truth of God. I close with this warning which can be applied to all false systems: "BEWARE LEST ANY MAN SPOIL YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND VAIN DECEIT, AFTER THE TRADITION OF MEN, AFTER THE RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT AFTER CHRIST." (Colossians 2:8).

The **CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE**

October 1987

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