

True Family Values

TRUE FAMILY VALUES

Building a Genesis 1:28 Family

**PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR STUDY AND
DISCUSSION AT HOME AND IN THE CHURCH**

BOOKLET ONE

Dr. Tyler Hendricks

True Family Values

TRUE FAMILY VALUES

Building a
Genesis 1:28 Family

Booklet One: Rearing Children

- 1. God and Christians,
Parents and Children**
- 2. How God Gives the Growth**

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True Family Values

The mission of the True Family Values Ministry is to help build vibrant communities of fulfilled blessed couples and successful lay ministers. *Building a Genesis 1:28 Family* is designed for home and church workshops and study groups. Its goal is to support and educate people of all churches about blessed marriage and family life.

True Family Values Ministry began in New York with the blessing of True Father Sun Myung Moon and True Mother Hak Ja Han Moon and under the direction of Reverend Joong Hyun Pak in 1996.

“The starting point of Kingdom of Heaven is not an individual or nation, but a family. Jesus came to seek the relationship of bride and groom on earth. Is the starting point of the Kingdom of Heaven an individual? No; it is a family.” Reverend Father Sun Myung Moon

Biblical passages are from the New International Version unless noted otherwise. Many passages from the Reverend Sun Myung Moon are from the English translation of *Blessing and Ideal Family* which is published in several editions. The first was entitled *Blessing and ideal Family* (New York: HSA-UWC, 1992); it is also found in the compilation entitled *Blessed Family and the Ideal Kingdom*, Vol. 1, and in the Hoon Dok Hae series, volumes 1.1 and 1.2.

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Part One: BE FRUITFUL

Booklet One: Rearing Children

**God and Christians, Parents and Children
How God Gives the Growth**

Booklet Two: Growing as Brothers and Sisters

Jesus' Words to Brothers and Sisters
The Unripe Fruit of Immaturity

Booklet Three: The Temptation

The Sexual Revolution: The New Name for an Old Problem
Sex, Serpents and Scriptures, Part 1

Booklet Four: Genesis and Genetics

Sex, Serpents and Scriptures, Part 2
What Love's Got To Do With It

Part Two: MULTIPLY

Booklet Five: The Most Holy Place

True Love and Family Fulfillment
The Dwelling Place of God

Booklet Six: Restoring God's Marriage Design

The Biblical Model of Parental Love
Practical Steps to Everlasting Marriage
Appendix: Our Goal Is To Change the Culture

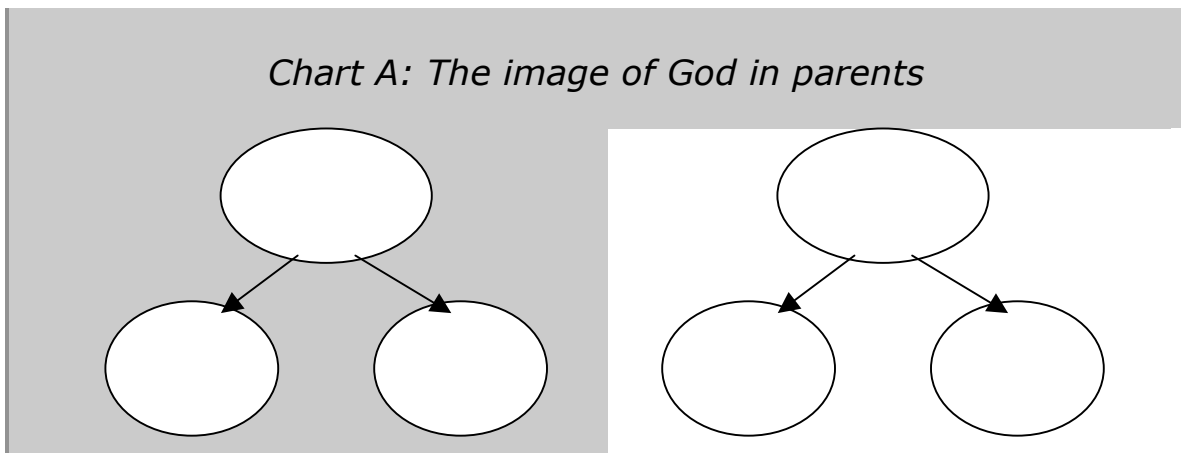
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Be Fruitful // Rearing Children

1. "God and Christians, Parents and Children"

1. A child's relationship with his or her _____ is a model for our relationship with _____.
2. We are created in God's _____.

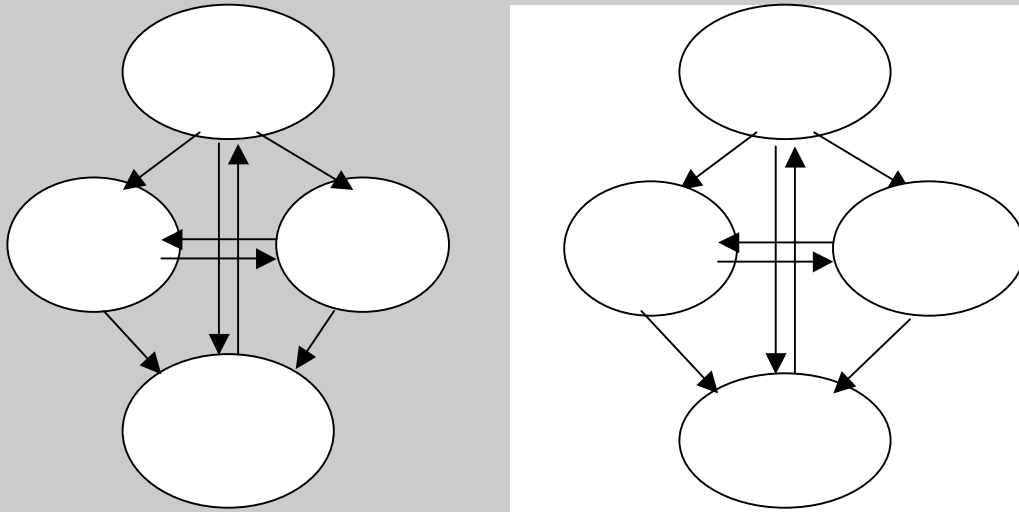


Genesis 1:27
Deuteronomy 32:18
1 John 3:1

3. We are created in our _____ image.
4. Every child is born physically from God through a _____ and a _____.
5. Every Christian is reborn spiritually from God through _____ and the _____.

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Chart B: The image of Christ and the Holy Spirit in parents



6. Children receive God's love from their _____ and _____.

Proverbs 3:11-12, 4:3-4

Isaiah 66:13

7. Christians receive God's love through _____ and the _____.

Jeremiah 3:20

Galatians 4:26

Chart C: The godly paradigm of parental love: Eph 5:22-33

For whom:	What is given:	Received from:	Through whom:

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LESSON:

NEXT STEP:

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2. "How God Gives the Growth"

1 Corinthians 3:6

Introduction to The First Blessing: "Be Fruitful"

Psalms 1:1-3

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Discussion questions:

What did David mean by "he is like a tree ... which yields its fruit in season"?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

1. The first blessing: _____.

MAIN POINT:

2. We love _____ because He first _____ us, and we love our _____ because they first _____ us.

1 John 4:19

3. As Jesus _____ God, true children should _____ their parents.

John 14:31

Luke 2:51

Exodus 20:12

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 3:20

4. What are the _____ of obedience to parents?

5. The New Testament blessings of _____.

1. Phil 2:8-9

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2. John 15:9-12

3. Hebrews 5:7-9; 12:23

6. God _____ His love by sending Jesus, and parents need to _____ true love.

1 John 1:1-2

CHART D: Parallels of God and Parents

God	Parents
Gives love first	
Is worthy of obedience	
Demonstrates His love	

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1: God and Christians, Parents and Children

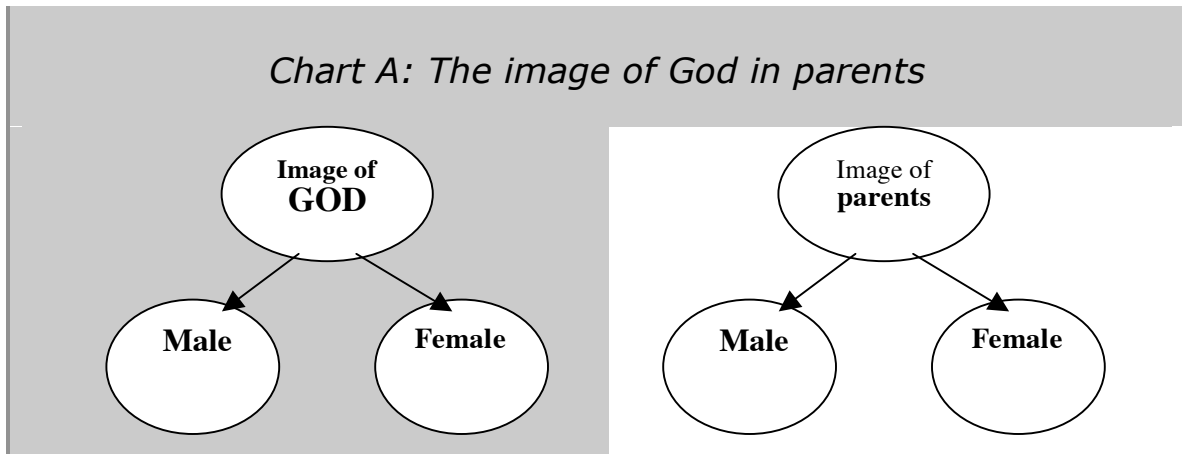
Our first session concerns the parent-child relationship. We pay special concern here to how God teaches us how to be great parents, by serving as the model of true parenting. We know you will find it useful.

1. A child's relationship with his or her parents is a model for our relationship with God.

Before discussing the Blessings from God in Genesis 1:28, we should discuss what comes before that in Genesis 1:27. There we find that we are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27).

"The family is a sketch of what is in store for us in heaven. It is a place where you can discover the image of God. ... The human family serves as a picture of God Himself."¹

2. We are created in God's image.



"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27

That we are children of God means we are begotten; created out of His own body, as parents create children, not as artists create works of art. In Deuteronomy 32:18, we read of "the Rock, who fathered you; ... the God who gave you birth."

1 John 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

3. We are created in our parents' image.

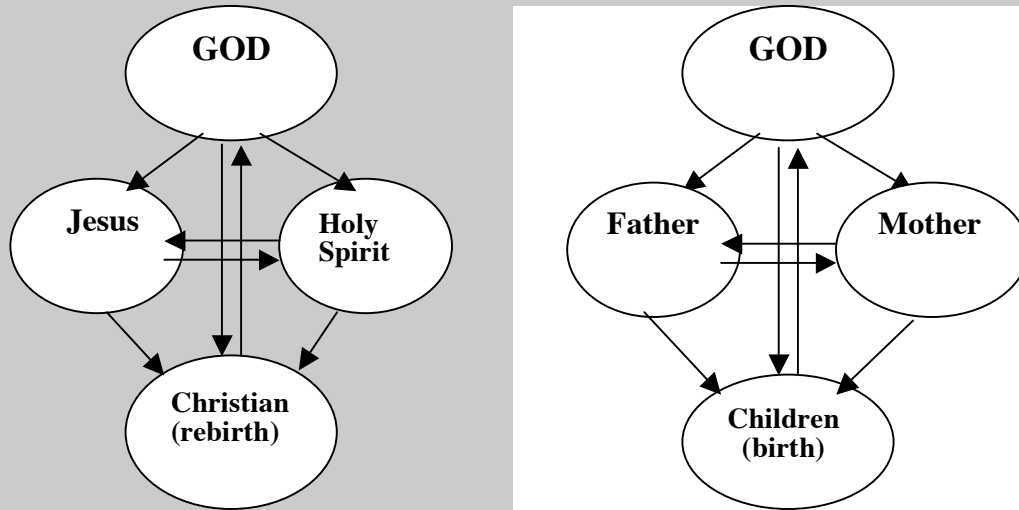
4. Every child is born physically from God through a father and mother.

¹ Christian Broadcasting Network brochure, 1987

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5. Every Christian is reborn spiritually from God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Chart B: The image of Christ and the Holy Spirit in parents



6. Children receive God's love from their father and mother.

A father's love is expressed in Proverbs, "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." Proverbs 3:11-12, 4:3-4

God also expresses a mother's love, "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

Jewish tradition uplifts mothers as representing God's love in this Hasidic saying: "God could not be everywhere at once, so He gave each child a mother."

7. Christians receive God's love through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, God related as a husband to Israel: "But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 3:20, see also 31:32)

In the New Testament, Christ is like a **husband**; the church is his **bride** and Christians are the **children**. (Eph 5) Paul wrote that the "Jerusalem above" is our **mother**. (Gal 4:26) Revelation states that the church is the bride of Christ.

Chart C: The godly paradigm of parental love: Eph 5:22-33

For whom:	What is	Received	Through whom:
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given:		from:		
Christian	Rebirth	The Father	The Son	The Holy Spirit
Child	Birth	God	Husband – bridegroom – father	Wife – bride – mother
			“Christ”	“Church”

LESSON: Birth and rebirth should reflect each other. Parents should model on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, loving their children as God declared his love for Israel and Christ and the Holy Spirit for the church.

NEXT STEP: God wants His children to grow to maturity, just as parents desire their children to reach maturity. He wants us to “put away childish things,” as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13. This is our next topic in *Building a Genesis 1:28 Family*.

2: How God Gives the Growth

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." 1 Corinthians 3:6

Introduction to The First Blessing: "Be Fruitful"

The Bible has two meanings of the word "fruit" or "fruitful." One has to do with bearing children, as in "the fruit of your womb" (Deuteronomy 28:4, 53; Luke 1:42). We will discuss that meaning under the second blessing, "multiply."

God's blessing to "be fruitful" in Genesis 1:28 refers to the other fundamental meaning of the word "fruit" or "fruitfulness." That has to do with one's character becoming righteous in maturity.

This meaning is reflected in verses of scripture such as Ps 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:7-8 and John 15:5 and 8.

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked ... but his delight is in the law of the Lord ... He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season ..." (Psalms 1:1-3)

"But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water ... and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

"The perfected individual is one in whom the mind and body are completely united through the eternal giving and receiving of love, having matured according to the form of love that God originally created. A person maturing through love is like a bud growing into fruit."²

Discussion questions:

What did David mean by "he is like a tree ... which yields its fruit in season"?

- A. He does not listen to the advice of evil people.
- B. He does not associate with evil people.
- C. He is delighted by God's words of truth.
- D. He thinks deeply upon the law by which God would have us live.

1. The first blessing: Be fruitful.

This part of *Building a Genesis 1:28 Family* deals with how to rear children who can grow to bear the fruit of righteousness in God's true love.

MAIN POINT: Parental love is the foundation for the spiritual as well as physical growth of children.

2. We love God because He first loved us, and we love our parents because they first loved us.

² True Father, *Blessing and Ideal Family*

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1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

Our parents prepared our room, clothes, toys and everything, just as God did for Adam and Eve.

One can even say that giving birth is so painful that the mother feels as if she is going to die. In that sense, your mother gave her blood and flesh for you, and in delivery she "died for you." Jesus said that the ultimate love is to give one's life for one's friend. Mothers naturally give their life for their baby.

In response to the love of parents, the children imitate, honor, respect and obey their parents.

3. As Jesus obeyed God, true children should obey their parents.

Jesus is "the Lamb of God"--the model of obedience, even unto death.

John 14:31 "I love the Father and I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."

Luke 2:51: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even when they did not understand who he was.

The Bible tells children to obey their parents.

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

4. What are the benefits of obedience to parents?

God's instructions always are for our own good. God will not tell us to do things that hurt us. What are the benefits of obedience?

5. The New Testament blessings of obedience.

1. Phil 2:8-9 "He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore **God exalted him** to the highest place."

Obedience leads to exaltation. This exaltation is from God; it is not self-created.

2. John 15:9-12 "If you **obey** my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I **have obeyed** my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that **my joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be complete."

Obedience leads to joy. The joy Jesus felt by his obedience is infused into us, and our joy is completed in our obedience.

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3. Hebrews 5:7-9; 12:23 "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard, because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned **obedience** from what he suffered and, once **made perfect**, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who **obey** him."

Obedience leads to perfection.

6. God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus, and parents need to demonstrate true love.

"That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen** with our eyes, which **we have looked at** and **our hands have touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **The life appeared; we have seen it** and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and **has appeared to us.**" 1 John 1:1-2

A March 1994 US Today poll found that 7 out of 10 teenagers, 8 out of 10 adults support the abstinence message.³ But do parents practice this? Do children hear it and see it and touch it in their parents? What kind of video tapes do we bring home? Parents need to "walk the walk" or the children will reject their words.

To summarize,

CHART D: Parallels of God and Parents

God	Parents
Gives love first	Give love first (sacrifice without expecting a return)
Is worthy of obedience	Are worthy of obedience (give good rules)
Demonstrates His love	Demonstrate their love

By the parents doing this—giving love, giving good rules and demonstrating their love and words in practice—the children naturally will grow spiritually.

We will examine the challenge of working with our teenagers in the next presentation.

³ Tom McNichol, "The New Sex Vow: 'I Won't until I Do'", *USA Weekend*, March '94.