

SUN MYUNG MOON & THE UNIFICATION CHURCH¹
aka: “*The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity*”

INTRODUCTION & BRIEF HISTORY:

The Unification Church (often referred to in a derogatory way as “*The Moonies*”) is a cult centered around **Rev. Sun Myung Moon**, who claims to be the “3rd Messiah” i.e. Moon believes he is the Messiah sent from God to finish the work that Christ failed to complete (sic). He was originally named “Young Myung Moon (and) was born (into) a Presbyterian family on January 6, 1920, in the Pyungan Buk-do province of what is now North Korea. His name was later changed to Sun Yung Moon.”² The Unification Church was “**founded in 1954 in South Korea** (and its) current headquarters is in New York City.”³ Like almost all cults, The Unification Church has an extrabiblical source of authority, the book “*Divine Principle*.” The book was written by Rev. Moon and is “considered the ‘Completed Testament.’”⁴ They teach that the Bible “is ‘*not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth.*’”⁵ Another example: “*We now have the means to heal all modern-day human problems, exalt every human soul, and bring the Kingdom of God within the reach of every man.*”⁶

It is rather difficult to describe and explain the beliefs of this cult since their teachings are so incredibly convoluted and mixed up. The number one reason for that is that they completely violate the most basic law of Bible interpretation: **Interpret Literally** (i.e. *Normally* or *Naturally*). Instead, they allegorize, “spiritualize” & symbolize almost everything in the Bible. They give utterly fantastic meanings to common individuals, animals, and incidents in the Bible, meanings that no ordinary reader would ever dream up in a million years-if Rev. Moon hadn’t told them that was what that person/place/thing symbolized. For examples, see below under “*Basic Doctrinal Beliefs*” & “*Quotes from a two-day Seminar by the Moonies.*”

The Unification Church flies “under the radar,” often being hard to recognize because they have a number of “front names” or “front groups” for their organization e.g. “**CARP**” [“*The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles*” – a campus front organization of the Unification Church]; the “**H.S.A.U.W.C.**” [“*The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity*”]; “**UPF**” [“*The Universal Peace Federation*”]; “**I.R.F.F.**” [“*The International Relief and Friendship Foundation*”], etc. Through such organizations they make a very concerted effort to connect with the “shakers and movers” of society, such as political, religious & professional leaders. For example, recently (2006) in St. Vincent they held “seminars”, and the list of guests who attended (listed in one of the nationwide newspapers) included top lawyers, a former Attorney General, a member of Parliament, as well as the Governor-General of St. Vincent.⁷ Typically at such events some of the prominent people in attendance are given “awards” by the UPF leaders, followed by press releases that receive prominent coverage in the print media. Obviously, some of those at such meetings are willing participants and even devoted followers of Rev. Moon. Others apparently attend somewhat in innocence, only later realizing that they have been *used* to imply their approval of Moon & the Unification Church.

SOME BASIC DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF THE UNIFICATION CHURCH:

- **God** – “God is both positive and negative. God created the universe out of himself; the universe is God’s ‘body.’ God does not know the future, is suffering, and needs man (i.e. Sun Myung Moon) to make Him happy. (There is) no Trinity.”⁸ “God Himself told me (Moon) that the most basic and central truth of this

¹ Compiled & written by Rev. Mike Edwards, Baptist Bible College of the Caribbean, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, West Indies. Date: November, 2007.

² James Bjornstad, “*Sun Myung Moon & the Unification Church*” (Bethany House Publishers: Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1984 revised edition), p. 9. An earlier edition of this book was titled “*The Moon is Not the Son.*”

³ “*Christianity, Cults & Religions*” [contributors: James Bjornstad, Rob Bowman, Paul Carden, H. Wayne House, Eric Pement & Brad Sparks], (Rose Publishing: Torrance, California, 1996), panel 5.

⁴ Rose, op cit.

⁵ Rose, op cit.

⁶ Keith L. Brooks & Irvine Robertson, “*The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error*” (Moody Press: Chicago, Illinois, 1985 edition), panel 10 (quoting “*Christianity in Crisis*”, p. ix).

⁷ See, for example, The Vincentian, “*Speak only of the Good*” (Friday, April 7, 2006), p. 18 & The Vincentian, “*Peace seminar held in SVG*” (Friday, August 11, 2006), p. 48.

⁸ Rose, op cit.

universe is that God is the Father and we are His children.”⁹ “There is one living, eternal, and true God, a Person, beyond space and time...source of all truth, beauty, and goodness...creator and sustainer of man and the universe.”¹⁰ “God, being the First Cause of all creation, also exists because of a reciprocal relationship between the dual characteristics of positivity and negativity...We call the positivity and negativity of God ‘masculinity’ and ‘femininity’ respectively.”¹¹ “God existed as the internal masculine subject, and He created the universe as His external feminine object.”¹² “Man is the visible; and God is the invisible form. God and man are one. Man is incarnate God...as important in value as God Himself...God is just like you and me. All human traits originate in God.”¹³

- **Jesus Christ** – “Jesus was a perfect man, not God. He is the son of Zechariah, not born of a virgin. His mission was to unite the Jews behind him, find a perfect bride, and begin a perfect family. The mission failed. Jesus did not resurrect physically. The second coming of Christ is fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon, who is superior to Jesus and will finish Jesus’ mission.”¹⁴ After quoting John 8:58 (“Before Abraham was, I Am”) Moon writes: “We must understand that this also does not signify that Jesus was God Himself. Jesus, on earth, was a man no different from us except for the fact that he was without original sin... He ‘attained’ the purpose of creation.”¹⁵ “He (Christ) was the one who lived God’s ideal in fullest realization.”¹⁶ “In light of his attained deity he may well be called God. Nevertheless, he can by no means be called God Himself. (!)”¹⁷ “The death of Jesus was neither his will nor his fault. [It was] murder, and his body was taken by Satan.”¹⁸ “Therefore we must know that the Lord will not come on the clouds, realizing a Kingdom of God to be observed all of a sudden...at the time of the Second Advent, the day of the Son of man will come with his birth on earth, but the Christians, who believe that the Lord will come on the clouds, will not believe in and follow him as the Messiah...”¹⁹ “From these Biblical verses (Rev. 5-7; 14) we may know that Christ will be born in a country in the East—that is, from the rising of the sun—and place a seal on the foreheads of the hundred and forty-four thousand, the first chosen among the people of the land, with his name and his Father’s name (Rev. 14:1). Therefore, we see that the nation which would take over God’s heritage and produce the fruits for the Second Advent of the Lord is in the East. Then, which of the many nations of the East will be the very nation? **THAT NATION OF THE EAST IS KOREA.**”²⁰ “Even in the spirit world after his resurrection, he lives as a spirit man with his disciples. The only difference between them is that Jesus abides as a spirit man of the divine spirit stage, emitting brilliant light, while his disciples are the objects who reflect this light... Furthermore, when we find that Jesus said on the cross, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’ it becomes clear that Jesus is not God Himself.”²¹
- **Holy Spirit** – “The Holy Spirit is a feminine Spirit, who works with Jesus in the spirit world to lead people to Sun Myung Moon.”²² “There are many who receive revelations indicating that the Holy Spirit is a female Spirit; this is because she came as the True Mother, that is, the second Eve... Thus the Holy Spirit is a female Spirit, consoling and moving the hearts of the people [I Cor. 12:3]. She also cleanses the sins of the people in order to restore them, thus indemnifying the sin committed by Eve...the Holy Spirit, being female (negativity) in working on earth... There must be a True Mother with the True Father, in order to give rebirth to fallen children as children of goodness. She is the Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus

⁹ Brooks, op cit., panel 10 (quoting *CIC*, p. 9).

¹⁰ Ibid, (quoting “*Declaration of Unification Theological Affirmations at Tarrytown, New York,*” October 14, 1976”).

¹¹ Rev. Sun Myung Moon, “*Divine Principle*” (The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity: New York, NY, fifth edition, 1977), p. 24.

¹² Ibid, p. 25.

¹³ “*Christianity in Crisis,*” pp. 5, 4.

¹⁴ Rose, op cit.

¹⁵ Moon, *Divine Principle*, op cit., p. 212, 290.

¹⁶ Moon, *Christianity in Crisis*, p. 12, cited in Brooks & Robertson, panel 10.

¹⁷ Moon, *Divine Principle*, pp. 210-211.

¹⁸ Moon, *CIC*, p. 104, cited in Brooks, panel 10.

¹⁹ Moon, *Divine Principle*, p. 506.

²⁰ *Divine Principle*, p. 520.

²¹ *Divine Principle*, p. 212.

²² Rose, op cit.

said to Nicodemus that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born anew through the Holy Spirit (John 3:5).” (sic)²³

- **Sin** – “Adam and Eve...were tempted by the archangel Lucifer into illicit and forbidden love. Through this, Adam and Eve willfully turned away from God’s will and purpose for them, thus bringing themselves and the human race into spiritual death.”²⁴
- **Salvation** – “Obedience to and acceptance of the True Parents (Moon and his wife) eliminate sin and result in perfection. Those married by Moon and his wife drink a special holy wine containing 21 ingredients (including the True Parents’ blood).”²⁵ “God’s will that all people be restored to Him is predestined absolutely, and He has elected all people to salvation.”²⁶ “He [Jesus] must come again to consummate the mission he left undone 2,000 years ago. He was crucified...not given a chance to restore his bride.”²⁷ “Christ will come as before, as a man in the flesh, and he will establish a family through marriage to his Bride, a woman in the flesh and they will become the True Parents of all mankind. Through our accepting the True Parents (the Second Coming of Christ), obeying them and following them, our original sin will be eliminated, and we will eventually become perfect.”²⁸
- **Death & Resurrection** – “After death one goes to the spirit world. There is no resurrection. Members advance by convincing others to follow Sun Myung Moon. Everyone will be saved, even Satan.”²⁹ “If, among the two kinds of death, the physical one is not a result of the fall, we must conclude that spiritual death, signifying the degradation to Satanic dominion, is the real death caused by the fall...From the beginning, man’s body was created to turn to dust after it ages and dies. Therefore, the human body, once it is dissolved into dust, cannot be resurrected to its original state. It is not necessary for a spirit man to resume his flesh, when there is a vast spirit world where he is supposed to go and live forever...Accordingly, when we repent of our sins, making ourselves better and better, day by day, we are coming closer to resurrection.”³⁰ “Paradise is the region of the spirit world where those spirit men who have attained the life-spirit state by believing in Jesus while on earth go after death, and stay until the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven is opened... In the Last Days, a person may receive the revelation that he (or she) is a lord. In many cases, such people fail to find the right way, believing themselves to be the Lord of the Second Advent...”³¹
- **Rev. Moon is the Messiah** – “Testifying under oath about his religious beliefs for the first time, the Korean evangelist said...that although he doesn’t call himself the Messiah (sic), his followers ‘believe’ in him. *‘I have the possibility of becoming the real Messiah’*...The 62-year-old church leader and businessman had fought a subpoena to testify, but U.S. District Judge Richard Owen ordered him to...lawyer John DeGraff asked Moon about what the church leader said was his first conversation with Jesus on Easter in 1936 when he (Moon) was 16. Moon’s lawyer, Charles Stillman, leaped to his feet, protesting the line of questioning, but Moon said through an interpreter: *‘I am willing to answer that question. I met Jesus Christ.’* Under further questioning by DeGraff, Moon acknowledged meeting and communicating on numerous occasions with Moses and Buddha. Asked how he knew it was Jesus, Moon replied, *‘I remembered him from his holy picture and he said he was Jesus Christ.’* ‘You not only talked to him? You saw him?’ asked DeGraff. ‘And what did Jesus Christ say to you?’ (Moon): *‘He requested me to help him in the salvation of the universe,’* Moon said. Moon testified he could not recall the first time he met Buddha but he estimated it was ‘several decades ago.’ When asked how he knew it was Buddha, Moon replied that Buddha identified himself and that he also *‘recognized him from Buddhas in*

²³ *Divine Principle*, p. 215.

²⁴ Brooks & Robertson, op cit., panel 18.

²⁵ Rose, op cit.

²⁶ Brooks & Robertson, panel 18, citing DUTA.

²⁷ *Ibid*, citing *CIC*, p. 27.

²⁸ *Ibid*, citing DUTA.

²⁹ Rose, op cit.

³⁰ Moon, *Divine Principle*, pp. 169, 170.

³¹ *Divine Principle*, p. 177.

temples.’ When pressed to tell how he communicated with the religious figures, Moon said it was partially carried out ‘in words’ and ‘from heart to heart.’”³²

- **Miscellaneous Beliefs** – “**Mass Marriages:** (Recently 30,000 couples at once!), based on different racial backgrounds, arranged and performed by Moon. Members believe that Jesus bows down to Sun Myung Moon and that Moon is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the Lamb of God. Contact with spirits of the dead (is) accepted.”³³ “Marriage is the most important means of establishing God’s kingdom on earth.”³⁴ “God intended to make Adam and Eve one in heavenly matrimony. Then they would have borne sinless children and become the true mother and father for all mankind...establishing the heavenly kingdom on earth.”³⁵ **Reincarnation** (of a sort): “Also, the spirit men who left their missions unaccomplished on earth descend to earthly men whose missions are similar to those with which the spirit men were charged while on earth and cooperate with them for the accomplishment of the will. Seen from the standpoint of missions, the physical body of the earthly man serves as the body of the spirit man. The earthly man, receiving the cooperation of the spirit man, would accomplish the mission of the spirit man as well as his own. In this case, the earthly man is the ‘second coming’ of the spirit man who cooperates with him, so he often takes on the name of the spirit man. Therefore, the earthly man frequently appears to be the reincarnation of the spirit man. To take an example from the Bible: John the Baptist, in the course of fulfilling his mission through the cooperation of Elijah, had to accomplish the mission which Elijah had left unaccomplished while on earth. Jesus called John the Baptist ‘Elijah’ (cf. Sec. II, 3 [2]) because John’s body was the substitute for Elijah’s body.”(sic)³⁶

ACTUAL QUOTES FROM A TWO-DAY SEMINAR BY THE UNIFICATION CHURCH.

In 1992 I was able to attend an official two-day seminar conducted by The Unification Church in Pt. Moresby, Papua New Guinea. It was taught by a gentleman from Japan named Mr. Ichikawa, who, we were told, was the *Secretary-General* of the **I.R.F.F.** (*International Relief and Friendship Foundation*).³⁷ All of the statements that follow are random, direct quotes that I wrote down while attending those two all-day sessions. They will be listed chronologically in the order in which they were made.

From the seminar on July 25th:

“3, 4, 7, & 21 are key numbers... God has been guiding the human race through using these numbers – 3, 4, 7, & 21.”

“God wanted man to become a perfect man. Mt. 5:48 (quoted)...so God expects man to be perfect... we become manifestations of God... This is the main goal of life, to become perfect.”

“Some Christians think the sin (in the Garden of Eden) was desire to be higher than God, but it was fornication... She (Eve) ate the fruit. The symbolic meaning is that it means she had fornication with Satan... Adam and Eve then committed fornication... Adam was not in a mature state.”

“Jesus’ crucifixion was not God’s plan, but was a failure of man... If Jesus was accepted by the Jewish people He would not go (sic) to the crucifixion, so Jesus’ crucifixion was a failure.”

“Jesus said John is Elijah, but John said, ‘I am not.’ So the Jews had to choose John’s word or Jesus’ word. So they chose John the Baptist’s word and it became harder for Jesus.”

³² The Painesville Telegraph, “Moon is ‘helping’ Jesus save the world.”, Painesville, Ohio, c. 1981-1982

³³ Rose, op cit.

³⁴ Brooks & Robertson, panel 18, citing *CIC*, p. 25.

³⁵ *Ibid*, citing *CIC*, p. 26.

³⁶ *Divine Principle*, pp. 187-188.

³⁷ The meetings were two all day seminars held on consecutive Saturdays, 25 July & 01 August, 1992, on the campus of what was then called the “Administrative College”, Port Moresby (Waigani), Papua New Guinea. The writer personally attended both eight hour sessions. They claimed that it was the 6th workshop, and the second follow up session. Both weeks I signed the list that was circulated, which specifically asked to be contacted regarding when the next seminar session would be held. However, I also asked some pointed questions of Mr. Ichikawa during the seminars, so it’s probably not greatly surprising that I was never contacted! -mwe.

“Jacob was the first to dominate angels, so he became a Lord of the earth and a God of Jacob.” (sic)

From the seminar on August 1st:

The opening statement was by a man named Martin (I didn't understand his last name), who was the moderator. Martin was an African who said he taught at the Administrative College, and he said his wife owned a clothing store in Pt. Moresby called *“Ruta Fashions”*:

“I must apologize to you Christians that there are things that are controversial, but it is true and you will see it... many Christians are starting to believe... go and pray about it. Jesus will tell you if it is the truth or not...we did not call you here to be born again. We do not know what it is to be born again...This movement is to unite Christianity before the second coming...we will also talk about resurrection which is very difficult to explain...why does Jesus have to come again and we get lame answers like ‘to take us to heaven,’ etc...We will call on the Holy Spirit to help us...” (sic)

Part of Mr. Ichikawa's opening prayer illustrates how people can use words that sound good, while teaching things that are totally unbiblical: *“...we ask you to help us to understand what the Bible teaches, and we ask the Holy Spirit to help us...”* (Keep in mind that they believe the Holy Spirit is the created universe-see p. 1 of these notes)

“Satan created hell.”

“Matt. 24:29 (says that) the sun will be darkened and the moon turned to blood, etc. That is symbolized expression. (sic) Sun, moon, stars. In Genesis 39:9-10 the sun, moon and stars were father, mother, and child.”

“Heaven also has two meanings...heaven equals literal (sky), and heaven equals symbolic i.e. good society.”

Mr. Ichikawa denied that dead people were raised back to life at the time of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection:

“Mt. 27:52. First, there is no historical record (of this). Second, Christians shouldn't have been persecuted. If this happened (then) there must be a historical record, and there is not...(There) is no record in Acts of these folks preaching (and) where are they now?”

“We often make the mistake that the Kingdom of Heaven and Paradise are the same place...it is not the same place in the spirit world.”

“Christ is God's son, but he is not God.”

Mr. Ichikawa spent a lot of time presenting Rev. Moon's three-tier theological system, which provides an intellectual plan to pave the way for followers to conclude that Moon is the Messiah. (It is not stated that bluntly in the seminars, of course).

“Foundation of Faith...Foundation of Substance...Foundation for Messiah.”

Regarding the dove's that Noah released from the Ark: *“The 1st dove is symbolic of Adam. The 2nd dove is symbolic of Jesus, who was the 2nd Adam. The 3rd dove is symbolic of the 3rd Adam.”* (They believe the 3rd Adam is Rev. Moon)

In the Unification system, everything has a symbolic meaning. For instance:

“Heifer = The Completion Stage

Ram = The Growth Stage

Dove = The Foundation Stage.”

“Gen. 12:10. Abraham, Sarah & Pharaoh. They said they were brother and sister to fulfill (the) position that Adam and Eve had before the fall. Then Pharaoh takes Sarah as a wife, like Satan took Eve. So Abraham restored Eve.” (sic)

A FEW OBSERVATIONS & OBVIOUS MAJOR ERRORS IN THE ABOVE FALSE TEACHINGS:

1. Eve’s sin wasn’t adultery with Satan.
2. The statement that “the worst sin is adultery” is incorrect. All sin is equally bad in God’s sight.
3. Making Adam and Eve (& everything else) symbolic is a major mistake of biblical interpretation. There is no limit to what you can say and teach then. You are limited only by your own imagination.
4. Christ’s crucifixion was *not* a failure! cf. John 10:17-18; Rom. 5:6; Rev. 13:8; etc.
5. Denial of Christ’s deity is a major error. cf. John 1:1; 5:18; 8:58; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Titus 2:13; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8; etc.
6. Denial of the Trinity is another major error. cf. I Pet. 1:17; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 9:14; etc.
7. Denial of Jesus’ literal, physical resurrection is another error. cf. Jn. 4:24 cf. Lk. 24:39; I Cor. 15:12-20; Acts 17:30-33; etc.
8. Denial of Christ’s literal, bodily return to earth at his Second Coming is wrong. cf. Rev. 1:7; Mt. 24:26-27, 30; Acts 1:9-11; etc.
9. Denial of Christ’s claim to be the only way to heave is wrong. cf. Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; etc.
10. The assertion that Rev. Moon is the Messiah (a claim made by him publicly beginning in 1991) is totally false. cf. Mt. 24:5, 23-27.
11. Ideas such as the “*Foundation of Faith*,” the “*Foundation of Substance*,” the “*Foundation for Messiah*,” etc., are all false, and are found nowhere in the Bible.
12. There are only two “*Adams*”, not three. cf. Romans 5:12-21.