

# MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY - THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY

God's *Three Great Blessings* for human beings

The *Three Great Blessings* (Genesis 1:28) reveal to us the purpose of our existence. They show the path that each of us—and humanity, as a whole—has to take in order to reach our divine potential and fulfill our innate desire for JOY. At the same time, they unveil God's ideal that He wants to see established in His creation.

If the first human ancestors had fulfilled the Three Blessings, God would have felt the greatest joy by experiencing His own image reflected in His sons and daughters.

**THE EXPERIENCE OF JOY**—the deep, emotionally satisfying and lasting joy, which unfolds through unconditional love for the well-being of one's partner—is **the highest purpose behind God's creation of the cosmos.**

The fulfillment of our deepest human aspirations can be found in the realization of the Three Great Blessings: the desire for inner peace and a mature character; the desire for a loving family and harmonious interpersonal relationships; and the wish to unfold our creativity and talents in harmony with the surrounding natural environment. We suffer, consciously and unconsciously, when these primary desires remain unfulfilled.

This divine image is deeply rooted within us, but for certain reasons we find great difficulty in connecting with it. Still, we strive to make this connection time and again, because intuitively we know that the highest potential for joy and happiness is to be found there.

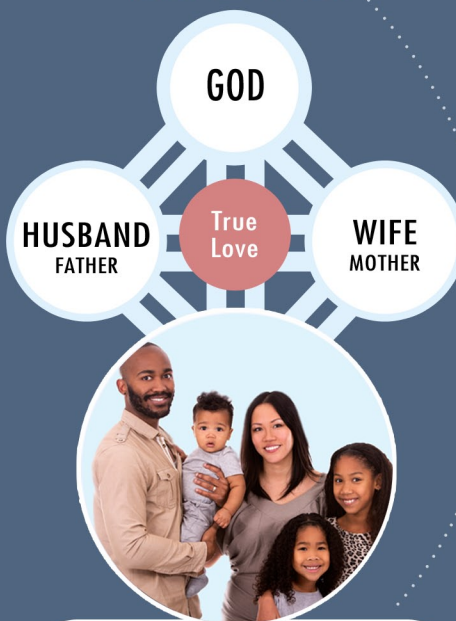
## THE FIRST BLESSING BE FRUITFUL



**MATURE PERSON**  
MIND-BODY-UNITY  
CENTERED ON GOD / TRUE LOVE

It is on the level of the individual that the prosperity or adversity of the family and society is decided. If the connection to God's love can be made successfully at this stage, relationships within families and society will be characterized by God's ideal of love (loving and living for others) as well.

## THE SECOND BLESSING MULTIPLY



**HARMONIOUS FAMILY**  
HUSBAND-WIFE-UNITY,  
PARENT-CHILD-UNITY, SIBLING-UNITY  
CENTERED ON GOD / TRUE LOVE

HARMONIOUS SOCIETIES  
HARMONIOUS NATIONS  
HARMONIOUS WORLD-FAMILY

## THE THIRD BLESSING HAVE DOMINION



**IDEAL COSMOS**  
HUMANKIND-NATURE-UNITY  
CENTERED ON GOD / TRUE LOVE

Humans become the owners and caretakers of love toward creation: sustaining, maintaining and responsibly governing the creation with goodness, knowledge and admiration. A world of mutual prosperity, a pleasant home for everyone.

### The family – far more than just a basic social community

Human beings need to mature in love. The family is the place where each of us finds the relationships that are most essential for our growth of heart (spiritual growth). It is also the place where our identity is affirmed and strengthened. Through experiencing parental, filial, siblings' and conjugal love, our heart can grow to the highest level of human love: the parental heart, which invests and gives unconditionally, again and again. That is the final "test" in the school of love. **The family was purposefully established by God as the natural school of love and ethics. Families of true love are the foundation for a righteous and caring society.**

True Love

The fundamental principle of the cosmos:  
living for the wellbeing of others  
and for the sake of the greater good



**FAMILY FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION

# THE THREE NATURAL STAGES OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE

Born to live forever

Our life does not start with the first breath, nor does it end with the last. Every human life passes through three stages:

**1. The embryonic stage:** The nine months that the baby spends in the womb serve as preparation for the next stage, the earthly life. Although in this liquid environment the baby receives nourishment and oxygen through the umbilical cord, the digestive organs and the lung already must develop their functions for the next stage, enabling them to digest food and breathe air in the physical world.

**2. The earthly stage:** After nine months, the baby must leave the secure and familiar environment of the womb—whether the baby wants to or not. Through the birth, the first

stage of life dramatically comes to an end and the second stage starts. However, complications are possible when the baby has not developed properly in the womb.

As with the first stage, the second stage of life is also limited. Instead of nine months, our physical life on earth can last about a hundred years. It serves as preparation for the third stage: life in the spiritual realm.

Inevitably, for each of us, the day nears when our life on earth ends. But the death of our physical body is by no means the end of our existence. Our Spirit Self merely discards its fleshly “coat” and enters the ethereal sphere of the Spirit World: our second birth. Every person, without exception, must pass through this natural process.



**LIFE IN THE MOTHER'S WOMB**  
SURROUNDING: WATER  
DURATION: 9 MONTHS



**LIFE ON EARTH**  
SURROUNDING: AIR, FAMILY  
DURATION: UP TO 100 YEARS



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD**  
SURROUNDING: GOD'S LOVE  
DURATION: ETERNAL

## CONCEPTION

With the physical conception, also the foundation is laid for the creation of the new spiritual self.

The body develops to prepare for life in the physical world.

**capacity to live**

## FIRST BIRTH

The umbilical cord is severed.  
The placenta is discarded.  
The baby is delivered.

The spirit / soul develops for its future life in the Spirit World.

**capacity to love**

## SECOND BIRTH

The silver cord is severed.  
The physical self dies.  
The spirit person is delivered.

As a spirit person, we take our place in our eternal spiritual home.  
This world by far surpasses the earthly world in beauty, intensity and richness.  
In the Spirit World the laws of God's love and truth apply.

**3. The spiritual stage:** Just as we left the liquid environment in our mother's womb and started to breathe the air in the earthly atmosphere, we now leave the “womb” of Mother Earth at the moment of our physical death and enter the realm of the spiritual dimension. The Spirit World is not filled with water or air – but has a spiritual substance which regulates and governs all life processes: **God's love**. During our prenatal stage we developed our lungs, enabling us to breathe air in the physical world. During our earthly life, however, we must develop our “spiritual heart”—our capacity to love—so that we may enjoy life in the spiritual realm without limitations.

**We are born to live forever, and love is the essence of our eternal life.**

For us to grow and mature in love, God prepared a perfect natural learning structure on earth: **the family**. In a family environment characterized by loving and caring relationships, we can learn most effectively **to joyfully sacrifice and invest ourselves for the well-being of those around us**. This is most essential for the growth of our heart.

Human beings are destined to fulfill the *Three Great Blessings*, which are the divine mandate God gave to us. If we are blind to the reality of God's existence, His love and His truth, and lead a selfish life, centered on materialistic values only, it has consequences for our eternal life. “For what does it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26)

On the day of our transition into the Spirit World we will not be “sent” to Heaven or Hell by God, Jesus or anyone else. In fact, we automatically go to **a place that matches the degree of the spiritual maturity that we have reached during our earthly life**. Therefore, it is not God who divides the Spirit World into beautiful and frightening realms—as a reward for the “good” and a punishment for the “bad.” No, according to the way of life that we have lived on earth, we bring these respective moral standards with us and open the realms of “heaven” or “hell” ourselves as we settle in the Spirit World.

If we are wise, we will know this truth and **use every day of our earthly existence as preparation for our eternal life**.