

# Unification Sanctuary Matching Handbook

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the first edition of the Sanctuary Church Matching Handbook. We expect there may be revisions after more experience and feedback. It will share some of the accumulated experience of those who have gone before in trying to practice a God centered matching process. It is not and cannot be a rule book or law book of what to do. Each parent and candidate is unique with their own portion of responsibility. We hope to give you insights to pray over, think about, and discuss as you go forward in this process.

The process and policies outlined in this handbook are based upon the new international guidelines developed under the guidance of Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, Rev. Yeonah Moon, Mr. Kook Jin Moon, and Mrs. Ji Yae Moon. The foundation of this handbook is the teachings of our True Father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the owner of lineage and founder of the Blessing tradition.

## FINDING GOD'S HEART AND MOTIVATION

The motivation for Parents' matching is God... bringing our Heavenly Father joy and fulfilling God's Original ideal, the Three Great Blessings. Our challenge is to find that heart and motivation and create the conditions and process that will allow God to be present and guide it. Please, forward your feedback and suggestions.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Blessed Life Department wishes to thank Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, Rev. Yeonah Moon, Mr. Kook Jin Moon, and Mrs. Ji-Yea Moon who created the new international guidelines and inspired and empowered us to develop this matching process and to take ownership of its results.

## **I. OVERVIEW OF MATCHING PROCESS AND GUIDELINES**

### **A. Important Objectives**

1. Establishing a parent-centered process. (If for any reason parents cannot be involved, then advocates or other mentors will be needed in that role.)
2. Allowing for and respecting each candidate's input and portion of responsibility in the matching process.
3. When seriously pursuing a possible match, assuring the most respect and love for all members of both families centered on God.
4. Full disclosure of each candidates' faith and situation (no secrets of an unprincipled past).
5. Assuring the couple's ownership of their matching decision.

### **B. Recommended Qualifications for an Candidate**

1. Believe in True Father as the Messiah and recognize Rev. Hyung Jin Nim as the Inheritor and 2<sup>nd</sup> King of Cheon Il Guk.
2. Be committed to realizing the ideal of true families.
3. Attend regular worship services on line or in person.
4. Tithing to Sanctuary Church.
5. Traditional standard of a 7-day Fast or (21 days of fasting of the evening meal may be substituted)
6. Matching age: 17 minimum to begin; 20 or 21 is recommended. Parents to begin their own education earlier. Support and communicate with their child from a young age.
7. Divine Principle education to the level of 7-day content; 21 or 40-day is preferred.
8. Completion of an application profile by the candidate.
9. Completion of a Purity Interview with Parents or designated elder. Fulfillment of any forgiveness conditions.
10. Completion of a Blessing Workshop, Small Group study or online home study for matching candidates.

## **II. WORDS FROM TRUE FATHER, HYUNG JIN NIM and BIBLE**

### **A. True Father's Words:**

#### **The Value of the Blessing**

"In the entire life of True Father, do you know what the most valuable thing I can imagine is? It is the Blessing. For all of you, the ultimate gift in human history is the Blessing. The value of the Blessing cannot be exchanged even for the world. The Blessing is one man and one woman, centering on God's will, becoming true father and true mother, producing true love."

"Your ideal partner is the person who will be your companion on the road to the ideal world."

"The perfection of a man and woman's love is the perfection of the universe. The day this love was broken, the universal order was destroyed and the vertical world was broken. Therefore, you must know how important marriage is from the providential viewpoint. Through true love, man and woman gradually get closer to the center of the eternal world. Man and woman centering on God will unite into one in the center. Man and woman centering on God, giving and receiving love, will become one and will give birth to sons and daughters. Sons and daughters who are born as the fruit of love, through give and take action centering on parents who are one with God, will produce the four position foundation."

#### **Parents' Role in Matching their children**

"I want you to understand that you are the pioneers of the tradition of the future. You are making the mold for others to fit into. I want you to prepare your home and clan for every eventuality. Those of you living close with me feel more to the bone this tradition. You must be ready to learn and take over the tradition."

"You may be thinking, 'It is only Father who can do the Matching, not us,' however that is not so. You are all able to do the Matching, because God, who is supporting me, is also supporting you, just the same."

"The promise between the Blessed Family and me is fulfilled when the Second Generation born to that family receives the Blessing."

During a speech at the most recent Day of All Things, True Father confronted a church leader who was taking an active role in recommending a spouse to a member of the Second Generation. True Father admonished him saying, "How can you leaders take responsibility of the eternal lives of the Second generation?" True Father gave authority over and responsibility for matching Second generation to the parents of Second generation, not to the leaders, not to the church, and not to Second generation.

"In the dispensational view, the vertical connection is eternal and therefore more important than the horizontal, which is temporal. That is why parents must be a part of the choosing of the mate. This doesn't mean that parents should arbitrarily choose partners for their children, but rather the parents should intervene, representing heaven, in order to ensure the harmony of the vertical and horizontal relationship. This is the meaning of the Blessing."

True Father said on True Children's Day, "From now on, if you have a child and you try to match him with a good person, you will become a bad person. If you liked one particular person (as a spouse for your child), conversed in secret and arranged the matching this way, then your ancestors from heaven will come down to oppose such a match without a doubt. They will say, "You stupid son, you terrible daughter! Why try to marry him with a person you think is good for him? You must match him with a person Heaven thinks is good for him."

#### **Words on Matching**

"The ideal partner (ideal mate) in Father's mind is completely different from the ideal partner we imagine. The ideal partner that True Father thinks of is a match of completely opposite types, such as spring and fall types, summer and winter types, etc. True Father says, "When a North-pole type person is matched

with a South-pole type person, then out of such a couple a child will be born who has a huge capacity to embrace the entire globe.

“In order for a spring-like woman to pass through summer and winter, she has to meet an autumnal man. A woman who corresponds to spring has to pass through summer in order to meet an autumnal man, and the autumnal man has to pass through winter in order to meet the spring-like woman. Therefore both ultimately pass through all four seasons.

“When I am matching people one after another, I try not to look clearly at the contours of a person’s face, if possible. I rather look at two persons for a while, and check what kind of feeling comes. It is as if there is a measuring device for minds, and I compare the two without delay. If when I look at the two, instantly and without self-awareness, I feel as if they are becoming one, then it is precisely a match made in heaven, a perfect match.

“More than anything, one’s love partner should establish an ideal harmony and balance. You should think that the person who appears as your beloved spouse is a son or daughter of God, whom He truly loves, and that therefore He may come disguised as the ugliest person. If you love your husband or wife with those eyes, it has the same significance as loving God’s son and daughter.”

### **Candidate’s Attitude and Heart**

“The term “ideal spouse” is very good, is it not? Until now, you have thought that an ideal spouse is like this or like that. No matter how good your partner is, you will not find his or her value unless you have within you the quality to do so. Do you understand what I am saying? Where is your capacity to discover whether or not your spouse is excellent? Without you yourself being the best, you cannot find the very essence of your spouse’s excellence.

“It is through the merit of investing myself that my partner is moved and comes to appear as an object with value. God created heaven and earth not just to see them as they are. He created in order to love, with heart as the basis. In the same way the only thing that matters in re-creation is acting with the heart as the guide. Even though Adam and Eve are small, in the world they are not seen as small but big.

“Men naturally pursue women, but for what purpose – to receive love or to give love? That is the most important question. It is a serious problem that American people have not understood how universal law works. You should never think, ‘I’m so glad I’m getting married because now my life will be easier. I will have someone to... serve me.’ But all of a sudden, that is not what happens and you start to complain, ‘Hey, what’s happening here?’ Your first concept was wrong; you are not supposed to get married in order to make your life easier. You should think that your life will get tougher, but you should be willing to do it in order to give love.

“Why do you marry? It is to inherit the foundation of thousands of years and of ten thousand generations of chosen people; it is for the future generations. If you marry for the sake of yourselves, you will destroy everything. That kind of decadent trend is sweeping over the world, and all of it has to be cut off. If you have that selfish thought, you are my enemies.

“Let’s say there is a good looking person among the blessing candidates. He or she might look splendid on the outside. But what is important is whether or not that person has the value to exist in the future in front of the will of God. That is the primary question for the partner whom that person meets.

“Therefore, our marriages are for the sake of our descendants. Thus, even though candidates might appear unsuitable in some way, the problem is how to match people so that their children inherit only their parent’s good points.”

### **The Origin of the Universe**

“If all men and women admit that their sexual organ belongs to their spouse, we would all bow our heads and become humble when we receive our spouse’s love.

Our sexual organs are palaces of true love, true life, and true lineage. They are the most precious place. If these organs were to disappear, heaven and earth would disappear. Without these organs, God’s ideal,

His family, and His will could not be fulfilled. These organs are an origin from which everything can be perfected." In search of the Origin of the Universe. 1997 (216-218, 1991.4.1) CSG Page 2,257

## **B. Words from Hyung Jin Nim:**

"The marriage tradition in our church is where we get to actualize all the things we heard when we were young and all the things we listened to in workshops. It's the real place for us to actualize and refine those very important skills, such as understanding the power of the relationship, living for the sake of the other person, understanding the other person and practicing true love in the same way we always explain it. When we have differences of opinion, we recognize them; we come to deep understandings through them by natural subjugation, not by force.

"I think one of the great things about being Blessed is that we are constantly reminded that our most precious relationship is dynamic, not static. In order for it to be truly alive, it does require investment. It does require us to put in effort and to work at it. I feel some things have helped me personally—such as trying to understand my wife more. Sometimes, early on, I just didn't get it. [Laughter] That's okay; if you work through that, you learn. It is a process of learning, a process of growth, a process of continual improvement. I feel that the Blessing is not only a milestone; it is one of our most central practices. You may have a family soon—children—in a couple of years. Then you can also start this practice with your kids, raising them. It's very exciting, very dynamic.

"One of the things I think is essential for Blessed Couples, Blessed Families, is to understand the concept that in giving the Blessing, True Parents have extended the Blessed life to us. That is something we can be proud of, and the Blessed life is something at which we can excel. And it does not have to stop with us. The Blessed life really is having the success and the victory God wants you to have in your lives, in relationships and so on. Then you take the next step and be that blessing to those around you, be that blessing to that person who needs a little help, your guidance, your mentoring. When we do that, we can start coming full cycle with living the Blessed life. Our view is that it can continually get better, which is very hopeful. I don't think it has a limit in the sense that you reach some stage and just stay there. True Parents continually try to improve and grow—with the grandchildren, together, and so on."

## **Explanation of 3-Day Ceremony**

"Through the 3-day Ceremony, the wife is reborn in Christ as the restored Bride of Christ and is bestowed as a princess in the Kingdom of God. The husband is reborn in Christ as a son of God. After the completion of these Holy Consecrations, the husband and wife will stand as a prince and princess of God's Kingdom to glorify and honor Him forever." April 21, 2015

## **C. Bible**

### **Wives and Husbands, Ephesian 5:21-33 NIV**

Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Savior of the church, his body. And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as the church submits itself to Christ.

Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. He did this to dedicate the church to God by his word, after making it clean by washing it in water, in order to present the church to himself in all its beauty—pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle or any other imperfection. Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. (None of us ever hate our own bodies. Instead, we feed them, and take care of them, just as Christ does the church; for we are members of his body.) As the scripture says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one." There is a deep secret truth revealed in this scripture, which I understand as applying to Christ and the church. But it also applies to you: every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband.

### III. PREPARATION FOR THE MATCHING PROCESS

#### A. Preparation for Parents

##### 1. Spiritual Preparation

###### a. Seeking God's Heart and Perspective

We are seeking to establish a tradition of God-centered love to bring joy to our Heavenly Father. Parents will want to create the foundation for God's guidance and involvement in the process.

###### b. Father's words

True Father has spoken deeply about matching and his confidence that God will guide the parents to a match. The more parents prepare and educate themselves by reading, reflecting upon, and orienting themselves in Father's words and other resources the better.

###### c. Setting spiritual conditions

Husbands and wives will want to establish conditions to connect with Heavenly Father, each other, and the heart of their adult child preparing for matching.

Always be doing something. Activities oriented toward a matching are always better than only prayer or individual conditions.

In addition to prayer, bowing, Hoon Dok Hae, etc., we encourage doing something that will improve the real relationships within your family. You might determine to set aside time with your spouse or child each week. You might call your child and report what you are doing or are inspired about regarding matching.

###### d. Unity within the family is essential

One important goal of any condition you set individually or as a family is to become one in heart - to get on the same page. Unity and good communication are the most important and helpful conditions for God to be able to work.

##### 2. Educational Preparation

In the Appendix on Resources of this handbook you will find helpful resources and experience-based materials on understanding your child, building communication, or supporting various stages of the process outlined here.

Other ways to prepare include:

###### a. Blessing Workshops and other programs on the Value of the Matching and Blessing

###### b. Hear the testimony of other parents or BCs who have successful matches.

##### 3. Understand the Process. Also form your own list of dos and don'ts.

##### 4. Establish Communication

###### a. Husband-Wife Relationship

i. Discuss the matching process with your spouse first. Even if one parent takes a more active role, it is important that you are on the same page.

ii. Clarify your goals and priorities. What is primary to each of you? When to begin? What about age, race, nationality, purity, etc.?

iii. Discuss your child's real situation and readiness. Has your child expressed the desire to have help through an arranged marriage? Do you know what is important to them?

- iv. When one parent is not present or unable to participate, the active parent can identify an advocate for support.
- b. Parent – Child Relationship
- i. Parents need to respect their candidate's portion of responsibility, including input into the process and ownership of the final decision and outcome.
  - ii. Parents are advised to learn their candidate's hopes, goals, priorities and expectations in matching. Discuss and decide how best to work together.
  - iii. If communication between parent and child is strained or difficult, seek assistance through a mediator. Build trust.

5. Practical / Financial preparation

- a. Consider and prepare for Blessing expenses.
- b. Blessing Donation is a condition of sincerity to receive True Parent's Blessing
- c. Travel expenses to the Blessing event
- d. Clothing and accessories- from \$150 up to \$1,000
- e. Blessing ring- approximately \$400 for a gold ring.

**B. Preparation for Candidates: How do I know I am ready?**

1. Some critical questions to ask yourself:

- ✓ What is my motivation to be matched? Am I focused simply on finding someone to love me, or someone I can truly love and make happy?
- ✓ How deeply do I understand the unique meaning and value of the Blessing? Is it just finding someone to love and committing to be together forever, or is there more to it?
- ✓ How comfortable am I communicating with and caring for others?
- ✓ Who am I? What are my own goals and plans for the future? Am I looking for someone to "complete me?" What if my spouse's plans are different from my own?
- ✓ What do I expect from my spouse? What do I have to offer?
- ✓ While it may not be possible to ever feel truly ready, a sense of my own identity, basic social skills, self-control and the maturity to put others before myself are needed. Also, a fundamental faith in God and the Blessing ideal are important.

2. Standard qualifications:

a. Age: The international minimum age is 17 years. 20-21 might be better for many. We do not encourage that you rush, but if there is still hesitancy or lack of interest by the age of 24 or 25, it is important to consider and discuss the reasons for this.

b. Education:

i. Divine Principle and Bible Education - the international standard is 21-day level workshop content prior to entering the matching process. The minimum requirement is 7-day content.

- ii. Blessing Education - the international standard is completion of a Blessing Workshop, Small Group study or Home study.
- c. Photographs: Prepare at least three high-quality photos (candidate head and shoulders, candidate full-length, and a family photo).
- d. Personal Profile: Complete Candidate's profile by the candidate him/herself.
- e. Extended Profile Information: Develop a brief autobiography, photo montage, or other creative expressions of yourself and your family to share with those parents that are seriously considering your candidacy to provide a deeper level of information. This will help other candidates' parents to understand better who you are.

### 3. Educating yourself:

- a. Learn about difference between men and women, personality types
- b. Learn about relationships and roles in marriage.
- c. Attend Blessing preparation workshops
- d. Make a list of questions to ask your parents and other couples about matching and marriage.
- e. Hear the testimony of other parents or BCs who have successful matches.

## **C. Get the Family all on the same page**

### 1. Discuss relative roles and input in the matching process.

- a. Some examples of Candidate input:
  - i. Some candidates prefer to trust and receive their parents' recommendation with absolute faith.
  - ii. Some candidates want to discuss and agree with a suggested candidate before their parents contact the other family. Some specifically DON'T want this.
  - iii. Some candidates have suggestions to offer for their parents' consideration.
  - iv. Some candidates have a particular person in mind and hope for their parents' approval.
- b. Some candidates have preferences and priorities regarding age, race, culture, nationality, language, faith, purity, future plans, etc.
- c. Be clear about the degree of your adult child's involvement at each stage in the process.
- d. Because each child is different, even within the same family, this plan may look very different from child to child.

### 2. Come to agreement about priorities and strategies. Discuss openness to special situations.

NOTE: For both spiritual and emotional reasons, it is best to match candidates with similar degrees of purity and relationship experience. Full disclosure is important.

### 3. Involvement of your other family members - Do we involve siblings or not, make a family matching team, etc.? Once decided, keep the process confidential among only those involved

### 4. Decide your approach to networking and methods of outreach:

- a. Website(s):



b. Advocates = Someone who knows a particular candidate and family, and is able to represent and network for them, be a mediator with other families, answer questions, look for possible candidates, etc.

c. Additional family or young adult networking events: workshops, community events, etc.

5. Develop a set of questions you may wish to ask

a. Questions for the parents

b. Questions for the candidate.

## **IV. THE MATCHING PROCESS**

### **A. STEP One: Finding Potential Matching Candidates**

1. The essence of the Blessing tradition is reversing the self-centered love which started with Adam and Eve and caused all the breakdown and tragedies ever since. God-centered guidance and approval through the parents is designed to provide an essential vertical input to the process of finding a mate. If parents are not present or unable to take this role, the process is much more challenging. Other people such as matching advisors must try to fill that role.

2. Potential matches for your child can be found from many sources. Strategize ways to find candidates.

a. Parent's suggestions: Who can the parents identify and recommend a possible candidate?

b. Candidate's suggestions: They are encouraged to offer names. God can work through the candidate's relationships if they were centered on God. Secret attractions need to be discussed in a trusting and mature environment or else when they are not worked out, somewhere in the future one or more people are going to have disappointments and resentments.

c. Siblings and friends: They often have a valuable network.

d. Elder friends of the family: They know people you don't know. Divine inspirations can come through family friends.

### **B. STEP Two: Identifying a Candidate for your child.**

1. It is recommended that you make a short list of candidates that look like a possible good match.

a. Prioritize the list together with your matching team. #1 would be your first choice to contact.

b. Gather information about the candidates from available sources like profiles and people you know.

c. Prepare questions that you would like answers to for the parents and candidate.

2. Have your child prepare his or her introductory and advanced profile information. This will be shared with any family you contact.

a. The standard profile on the website was designed for the initial contact.

b. Prepare high quality photos (head and shoulders, full length, whole family).

c. Supplement with other profile information that would be valuable to share.

## C. STEP Three: Make contact with another family about matching

### 1. Making first contact.

- a. Keep it short. Purpose is to find out if the candidate is currently available for contact.
- b. Prepare for a “not available” so as not to take it personally.
- c. We suggest email because it is less confronting than a phone call.
- d. Alternatively, a mediator could make this initial contact without using names.
- e. We suggest you say something like, “We saw your son’s (daughter’s) profile and we were impressed by \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). We thought highly enough of him/her that we were wondering if you would like to exchange profile information with us. Please let us know immediately that you have received this outreach so we won’t be wondering if it got lost. Then please take 2 or 3 days to come to a decision whether or not you would like to go to the next step of exchanging more information.”
- f. If you receive a contact about matching from another family, respond immediately that you have received it. This is good etiquette in matching. Not responding that you received their outreach is disrespectful and discourteous. In your response explain what you will do next and how long before you will give them an answer about going to the next step or not.

### 2. Parent to parent contact or using a mediator

- a. Direct emailing between parents can work the fastest.
- b. Asking the help of a mediator (Matching Advisor) can also be helpful. In some cases it might be best to have the mediator make the first outreach to see if the candidate is available. No names would need to be exchanged at first.
- c. If the candidate is available, the mediator could share the name and some profile information of the interested party. Then after they express interest or not, convey that information back to the original family.
- d. A mediator can be helpful in gaining important information about the situation in a family. Or conversely, the mediator could share a special situation (ex. loss of purity, broken Blessing, children, disability) without sharing any names to see if the contacted family would still be open to going to the next step.

### 3. Exchange “introductory profile information”

- a. This is the basic profile written by the candidate (ex. website profile). Other information as desired may also be shared.
- b. It includes the 3 high quality photos. Others may be added as well.
- c. Parents’ additional comments and testimonies, church history, etc. may be helpful if desired.
- d. It is easier if this is gathered into one complete email package so the other party does not have to work hard to gather it all together from different sources, including the website. Not everyone is good with the Internet.

### 4. Both families clearly DECIDE to enter into discussions about matching with the other family.

- a. Clarify whether this will be exclusive or not, meaning they will only talk to each other until a conclusion is reached.
- b. Agree that confidentiality will be kept

- c. If one family remains open to contact from other possible matching outreach, everyone needs to know they are doing that.
- d. Our best recommendation from experience is to deal with only one family at a time. So if one family wants to remain open in the beginning, there should be a definite point if the relationship starts to build that they stop accepting other contacts and focus on just this one until a conclusion is reached.
- e. Confusion needs to be avoided. Clearly state that “We are now entering into discussions about matching our son with your daughter and this will be an exclusive discussion until a final resolution is reached about whether this will be a match or not.”

## **D. STEP Four: Advancing the Communication**

### 1. Exchange more advanced information

- a. Ask the other family for more information and photos.
- b. Ask questions for information that you want to know in order to make a decision to go forward.
- c. Facebook and other social media profiles might be helpful
- d. Personality profiles can be greatly helpful. (See Appendix for how to get them.)
  - i. Myers-Briggs
  - ii. Flag Page
  - iii. Five Love Languages
  - iv. Five Apology Languages
  - v. Carol Tuttle Energy Types

### 2. Decide on a process for give and take between the candidates

- a. You could begin by having the candidates write short essays on questions of interest. (See Appendix for suggestions.)
- b. Who will email who first? What is the plan for frequency of emailing because people are different in their communication styles?
- c. When to start talking on the phone? Will the parents talk on the phone and to whom?
- d. When to start video chatting.
- e. What is the reporting and sharing process to the respective parents? How often and how much do parents want to know what is going on? Do the parents report to each other?

### 3. Going deeper

- a. A certain amount of time is needed to learn the general details of another person’s life.
- b. After maybe 21 days or 40 days, have a discussion about continuing to go forward.
- c. Both sides clearly DECIDE to get serious to see if this will be a match.

d. Begin to discuss serious questions and issues about your relationship. Write down the questions to ask and then the answers so you'll remember them. Pray. Take note of points that make you uncomfortable. These "red flags" need to be dealt with before going to the next step.

e. Do research on mature love marriages and what makes for successful mature relationships. (See Appendix for recommended resources). Definitely learn about the differences between men and women.

f. Full disclosure. This is the time when any information needs to come out that would be a shock to the other family or cause damage to the future relationship. This would include loss of purity, struggles with pornography, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, sexual abuse, physical health concerns especially any effecting child bearing, or mental health issues. You could also include challenges in the family, between parents, with siblings, etc. Also issues of faith in God, Christ, the church, etc. Even career choice or country of residence might be an issue if one person has a very strong preference. If you expose everything and someone still loves you, you know it is real. If you keep secrets, you are never sure they will love you when the truth comes out.

#### 4. Purity Interviews

a. Forms are available to be filled out. Candidates need to do a full confession.

b. Designated elder (or the parent) needs to physically conduct the interview standing as a representative of God to receive the confession.

#### 5. Face to Face Meeting

a. Short is better at first. 2 to 3 days is recommended

i. One family could visit the other family and not bring the candidate.

ii. The candidate could visit with their parents. Or they could bring a sibling or friend along.

iii. Other variations are of course possible.

iv. Privacy away from other church members is recommended to avoid awkwardness and rumors.

b. Have lots of activities or some project to work on side-by-side. This makes it easier to get to know the person in different settings.

c. Be sure to have some time near the end for honest sharing of where each person stands regarding a match.

d. A suggested question. On a scale of 1 to 10, (1 being a definite "no" to going forward and 10 being completely ready to get matched) give your totally honest "gut" number.

e. If the number is in the middle, discuss what are the issues are and where to go from here.

f. Go back home and away from the intensity and evaluate the experience. Decide what you want to do next. Then discuss with your parents.

#### 6. Taking 100% Ownership

a. It is the Portion of Responsibility of the Candidates to take 100% ownership over the matching.

b. Give them the time and space to do that. Allow them to come to their conclusions in their own unique ways.

## **E. STEP Five: Making a Decision**

1. Make a clear decision at each step. Think of the process as a series of serious decisions, level by level that lead to a match. Possible decisions are:

- a. Don't want to go forward any more.
- b. Definitely want to go forward to the next level
- c. Can't make up my mind so I need to prolong this step. What action(s) needs to happen?

2. If candidates agree to accept the match, make sure it is clearly stated (written or verbal) by both people.

3. Make sure the whole family knows about it and is "on board".

4. Decide on arrangements for a Commitment Ceremony (Engagement Ceremony)

## **F. STEP Six: Commitment Ceremony**

1. Families get together for a Ceremony.

- a. Best for the couple to decide the parts of the ceremony (Songs, pledges, prayers, readings, rings, gifts, etc.)
- b. This is the offering to God
- c. This is the commitment to go forward to marriage and the Blessing
- d. Decide about exchanging gifts by family or individual.

2. Decide on a public announcement of the matching. What to announce; when to announce; and how.

## **G. STEP Seven: Waiting for the Blessing**

1. Decide the issue of physical closeness before something "just happens"

- a. Candidates are now betrothed to each other and in the position of Adam and Eve before the Fall
- b. Expect an attack from Satan
- c. We suggest you avoid any sexual stimulation of each other until after both the Blessing and legal marriage. As Christians, the highest standard is sexual intimacy only within marriage. You will be glad you kept your purity and so will your descendants.

2. Continue your education more seriously while waiting to receive the Blessing (See Appendix for resources)

- a. Study the differences between men and women
- b. Study what makes a successful marriage
- c. Learn more about each other by deeper give and take
- d. Pray and study about God's plan for marriage and for your couple specifically.
- e. Attend a Blessing Workshop or comparable event for couples.

3. Practice making all of your plans in life to now include your future spouse.

## **H. STEP Eight: The Blessing**

1. Prepare all necessary registration forms and information. Follow the church requirements for the Blessing.
2. Prepare for all financial expenses that will be needed.
3. Decide and prepare travel arrangements as necessary.
4. Plan your legal marriage. Will it be before or after the Blessing?
5. Have a wonderful experience at the Blessing

## **I. STEP Nine: After the Blessing**

1. Get legally married as soon as possible and before the "First Night" (starting sexual relations).
2. A couple's "First Night" will be very historical. Please think and pray deeply about it. Unlike Adam and Eve, you will have permission from God to engage in sexual intimacy.
3. Please offer it to God in an appropriate way.
4. Sex is the beginning of an eternal relationship designed by God as the "center of the Universe". Treat it as the Holy of Holies.
5. Creating oneness takes a long time and years of give and take. But becoming the object partner to God as a couple and bringing forth His lineage is the ultimate joy and consummation of creation.
6. Consider designating one or more "mentor" couples for your marriage. Share about your marriage on a deep level with trusted individuals or couples on a regular basis (preferably monthly).

## **CONCLUSION**

Returning the family to God's lineage is the essence of restoration. Building the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth means the building of ideal relationships between individuals and God, between husbands and wives, and between parents and children. The matching process involves all of these processes at one time. It is the crossing point of history. It is everyone's mission and destiny. It is a great opportunity to directly experience all of the "hearts" of God in history.

We wish you tremendous success and joy through the entirety of this process. Make a commitment to never give up until you have final success and victory. It will be yours.