

# **World Culture and Sports Festival**

*Convocation of World Leaders*

**Dialogue and Harmony Among Civilizations**

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Founder's Address

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Distinguished Chairperson, present and former heads of state and government from around the world, world leaders in many fields, ladies and gentlemen.

You have gathered here to discuss the conference topic, “Dialogue and Harmony Civilizations: The Family, Universal Values and World Peace” from the perspectives of your various activities in countries around the world. This is not a simple topic. I believe we must look upon this conference as an ideal forum in which we can practice our moral responsibility for this age toward a world culture of peace.

We know that many civilizations have risen and fallen during the course of history. Certain civilizations rose to great power and were highly advanced, but later declined and were all but forgotten. The fall of civilizations is partly caused by external factors, such as climate, illness, external invasion, or natural disasters, but internal factors – particularly those related to the decline of religion and morality – played a greater role in most cases.

Increasingly, we are faced with conflicts caused by disharmony or misunderstandings among religions and the dangers that these produce. If religions do not give high priority to inter-religious dialogue and harmony and practice these, dialogue and harmony among civilizations will be impossible.

Religions are the internal center of world civilizations, but the family is the basic axis on which religions exist. As we know, all people are born, and humankind continues its existence from generation from generation, through the relationship of lineage that is formed in the context of love between a father and a mother.

As a training ground to develop and nurture an individual’s character, the family is far more important than the school or the government. Also, the family has had a primary role in the creation, development, and reproduction of culture and civilization. Without the family, civilization cannot be passed on to the next generation. The family is an important first school where we learn about love. Love between parents and children, love between husbands and wives, and love among brothers and sisters must all have their basis in God’s true love. When a family becomes directly connected to God’s true love, it forms the substantiation of God’s true love culture. This can be the beginning point for building a civilization of true love and peace.

A true family is formed by two people, a true man and a true woman. It is through their exemplary loving relationship that a true family of love and peace is created and, thus, contain the solution to the larger problems of the world. Reflecting on

past history, it is evident that humanity has been plagued with the evils of war and conflict.

Even within ourselves, we cannot deny that there is struggle between our mind and body. The origin of our mind-body struggle can be traced to Adam and Eve who formed a husband and wife relationship through illicit love. This illicit relationship was the basis of a false human lineage centered on conflict and guilt rather than joy and love.

The blood of the adulterer Satan flows in our bodies, and this is the problem we face. It was originally intended that human beings would achieve mind-body (+, -) unity. We need a clear awareness, however, that the fact that humanity inherited the lineage of Satan resulted in a serious conflict (+, +) within us.

The problems of free sex, family breakdown, homosexuality, AIDS, and drug abuse are symptomatic of the Last Days. God seeks to guide humanity through these tumultuous times through a messiah figure standing as a true parent who fosters unity and peace within the individual, among couples, in the family, between nations, and the world.

Although we were created by God, we are in a state of constant inner conflict where our body is the base of operations for hell and our conscience is the base of operations for heaven. The fact that our bodily impulses became stronger than our conscience suggests that the power of false love was stronger than the power of the conscience during the “fall.” Bringing a solution to this problem is the key to our salvation.

God used religion to weaken the influence of the bodily influences over our conscience. For this reason, religion is as necessary in the present as it was in the past.

Then, what is the mission that religion must fulfill? It is to cultivate those things that are distasteful to the physical body. That is why religions tell us to fast, to serve others, to be sacrificial, and finally, to place ourselves on the offering altar. A sacrificial offering must be prepared to shed its blood and sacrifice its life.

Fallen human beings became false olive trees with roots of false love, and failed to become true olive trees. How can we solve this problem?

Today, it is possible for humankind to receive a great blessing through the rededication of marriage ceremony centered upon God’s ideal of family. This ceremony represents the symbolic process of engrafting one’s family to the true life, true love, and true lineage of the Lord of the Second Advent, the True Parents

of all mankind. In other words, it is finally possible for the false olive trees, represented by fallen humanity, to be cut and grafted on to the true olive tree of a True Family in order to achieve restoration and salvation. Through this process, it will be possible for all people to create true families, true nations, and, ultimately, the true Kingdom of God in Heaven and on Earth.

I have taught that God's Will is that the creation of true families through the rededication of marriage ceremony that transcends religions, cultures, races, and national boundaries is extremely important for the realization of world peace. I have given this blessing to hundreds of millions of couples around the world who participate on the basis of their determination to realizing these lofty ideals. I have dedicated my life for the sake of families of true love that are the cornerstones of an ideal society and world peace.

A study of any of the great religions will show that it contains values that are universal to all humankind, transcending culture, race, religion, and national boundaries. Religious teachings ultimately allow us to restore our relationship with the Almighty through the practice of true love. When we become one with the absolute, unique, unchanging, and eternal God through faith, we restore our parent-child relationship with God and reclaim our original value.

A realm of the heart that is formed through true love, no matter how small it may be, connects us with the universe as a whole. Humanity can only fulfill the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values in the context of God's true love. This is because the entire cosmos, including the spirit world, exists under the principle of God's true love.

Today, we are meeting in the United Nations, which was established as a temple of peace. We must all do everything we can to support the United Nations, so that it can be a true instrument of peace that fulfills its founding spirit. Humanity is at a time when we must give priority to the common good that transcends nations. Not only government institutions but also non-governmental organizations of each country must participate in the effort for true love and true families. Otherwise, we cannot bring about world peace. I would like to ask you to take active part in the true love movement of seeking to live for others and the true family movement so that we may build a new world with a culture of heart. I pray that God's blessing may be with you and your families. Thank you.