



THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE

Introduction to the Teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon

Part 1 Part 2 **Part 3** Part 4 Part 5 Part 6

WHY DOES **EVIL** EXIST?

ABUSE

ENVY

HATE

DECADENCE

HYPOCRISY

INDIFFERENCE

DEBAUCHERY

EXPLOITATION

FALSEHOOD

IGNORANCE

GREED

VIOLENCE

GLUTTONY

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The conflict within human beings

Have you ever harmed anyone intentionally? Maybe you yourself have been a victim of violence, abuse or deceit. From where do these impulses come, that make us indifferent to the sorrow of other people and lead us to hate, deceive or abuse others? For centuries philosophers and theologians have attempted to answer the following question: How is it possible to reconcile the evidently evil side of human beings and the resulting suffering in the world with the belief in a loving, omnipotent and omniscient God? *The Divine Principle* reveals logical explanations to these fundamental questions and identifies a real event at the beginning of human history as the main cause of our conflicted existence.



Since God is a being of infinite love, goodness and power, the question naturally arises: Why does evil exist? If we look at our selves, it is apparent that we live with two conflicting desires: one that tells us to lift up other people and care for them, and another that tells us to pursue only our own happiness at the cost of others.

Where does this conflict originate? Did God, after creating a beautiful and ecologically balanced system of life, somehow slip and design His highest creation with an inherent contradiction, like a cup with a hole in it? Of course not.

"For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

St. Paul in Romans 7:22-24

There is no historical record of events that explains **how evil came into this world**. However, the Bible in the book of Genesis offers a significant insight. We read there the story of the first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, who committed the first sin. **The story is shrouded in symbolism, however, and fails to explain clearly what Adam and Eve did.** Certainly, the sin of the first human ancestors had awesome consequences, as all their descendants have been affected by it. Other scriptural texts offer variations on the theme of the Human Fall. *The Divine Principle* presents a profound explanation of the **root cause of evil**, which has been embedded in symbols in all the great religions. The Genesis story, on which *The Divine Principle* explanation focuses, is perhaps the most widely known and profoundly revelatory.



Michelangelo: The Fall of Man and the Expulsion from the Garden of Eden

What happened in the Garden of Eden?

As told in the Genesis story of the Human Fall, there was a Garden of Eden, and in the center of the garden there were two trees: the **tree of life**, and a **tree of knowledge of good and evil** bearing a **forbidden fruit**. In this garden lived **Adam**, **Eve**, and a **serpent** who spoke to them and deceived them.

God gave Adam and Eve a commandment: do not eat of the **fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil**, or you will **die** that day. Then a serpent appeared and tempted Eve into eating the fruit despite God's commandment, and Eve, in turn, shared the fruit with Adam. At that point the man and woman felt **fear and guilt**; they **covered their sexual parts** and **hid themselves from God**. God then blocked their way to the tree of life and sent them out of the garden.

Literal or symbolical? A very important difference!

Is this story to be taken literally or symbolically? To interpret the *Genesis* story, *The Divine Principle* employs the following criteria:

- 1) common sense based on our general knowledge of history and the human experience;
- 2) the Bible as a whole;
- and
- 3) the *Principle of Creation* (as introduced in Part 1 and 2).

Based on these criteria, it becomes clear that the story is full of symbols. If the symbols are interpreted correctly, we discover that the story portrays **an actual incident** in the lives of our first human ancestors.

The fruit that the first human ancestors ate could **not** have been a **literal fruit**. As Jesus explained: "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, that defiles a man." (Matthew 15:11) Moreover, the death that resulted from eating the fruit was **not physical death** (Adam and Eve continued to live after the Fall) **but spiritual death**, meaning the separation of humans from God.



Daniel Fröschel, "Adam and Eve"



One common explanation is that Adam and Eve's act of disobedience was the cause of all the historical evil and sins of humankind. However, this analysis does not explain why Adam and Eve would disobey God over a mere piece of fruit. We cannot believe that God would implant in them a desire to rebel against Him, or to destroy themselves for the sake of a piece of fruit. Therefore, the fruit that Adam and Eve ate must signify something far more important to human happiness than a tasty apple or pear.



Masaccio: Adam and Eve's Expulsion from Paradise. Fresco 1427.

Sex and Original Sin

After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they felt ashamed and covered their sexual parts. Why would they do this? The Bible, in Job 31:33, says: "I have concealed my transgressions like Adam by hiding my iniquity in my bosom." This verse, stating that Adam concealed his transgression, and the account of Adam and Eve covering their sexual parts after the Fall, indicate that the sin of Adam and Eve involved a sexual act. If Adam and Eve had sinned with their mouths by eating a literal fruit, they would have covered their mouths in shame. Furthermore, the Bible records that the fall of the angels likewise involved a sexual transgression (Jude 6, 7).

What, then, must be the meaning of the fruit of the tree of knowledge? A fruit is the part of a tree that bears the seeds for reproduction. If the sin of the first human ancestors was sexual in nature—the result of the serpent (a symbol for the archangel, Lucifer) tempting Eve to "eat the fruit" and Eve likewise offering the fruit to Adam—then the fruit must symbolize the sexual love of Eve.

Does this mean that sex is evil?

Not at all. As explained in Part One, God clearly intended for Adam and Eve to fulfill the second blessing (to multiply). But God's commandment not to **"eat the fruit"** meant that they were not supposed to enter into a marriage relationship until their personalities had matured and they had become a perfected man and woman. Then, and only then, would they have been capable of loving each other and giving the love of true parents to their offspring, beginning a cycle of goodness, beauty and peace that was to last forever.

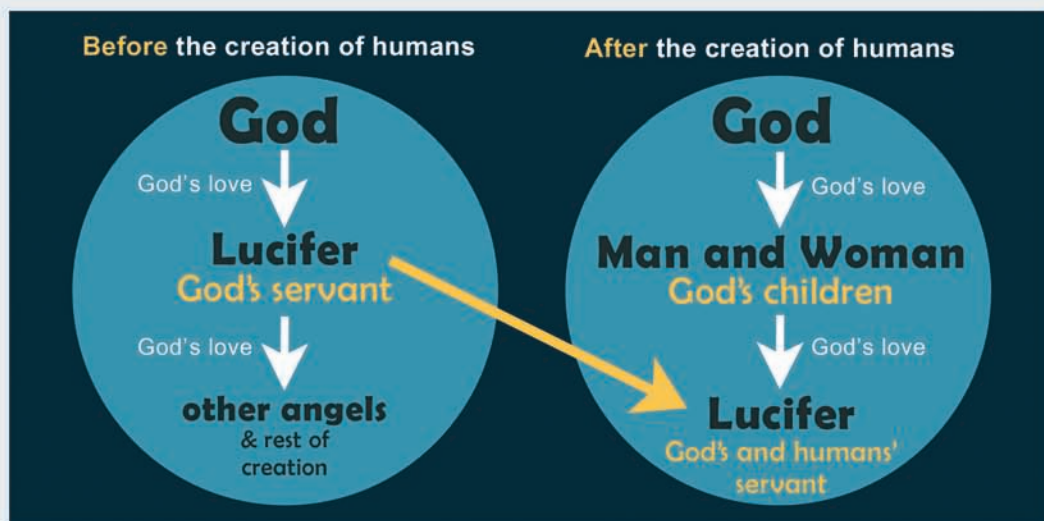


Illustration: depositphotos.com @ 01911

By engaging in a sexual relationship **prematurely**, Adam and Eve **let selfish love, centered on their physical bodies, take the place of selfless love, centered on their spirits and God's Word**. Thus, they fell. As a result, Adam and Eve could not give birth to and raise good, sinless children. Instead they gave birth to children who **inherited their selfish nature** which they had acquired through their relationship with the archangel, Lucifer.

The motivation of the fall

Then with what motive and by what process did Adam, Eve and the archangel fall in the Garden of Eden? God did not create Lucifer as an evil being. **God does not create evil**. Lucifer and the other angels were created as good beings. Unlike human beings, they were to live in the spirit world only, not in the physical world. Therefore, angelic beings have a spiritual body but not a physical body. God created them in a **servant position to humans**, who live in both worlds and therefore have a potential and responsibility greater than those of the angels.



In the Garden of Eden the archangel, Lucifer, was assigned to **educate and guide Adam and Eve during their growing period**. But as they became older and more mature, **Lucifer began to realize that they were receiving more love from God than he was and therefore felt the desire for more love**. Since Adam and Eve were God's children, they were meant to receive God's fullest and deepest love. Lucifer's situation may be compared to that of a child who is displaced by a newborn baby. Until the new infant arrived, the older sibling was the sole recipient of his parents' love. Now, all of a sudden, his parents' attention is focusing on the newborn.

Contrary to what Lucifer believed, **God did not love him any less than He did before the creation of Adam and Eve.** But because Lucifer had the ability to compare, he felt a lack of love. He tried to make up for this by coming closer to Eve. Lucifer saw that Eve was very beautiful, and he was stimulated by her. From her side, Eve, who was still immature and therefore susceptible to Lucifer's temptation, was attracted to him because of his wisdom and the attention she was receiving from him. The more Eve responded, the more the archangel was stimulated.

Even though Lucifer knew that his intent was **self-serving and against the Will of God**, his desire for more love led him to intensify his relationship with Eve.

A vicious cycle ensued. Eventually it drove him to defy God and heavenly law completely by engaging in **a (spiritual) sexual relationship with Eve.** Although she felt anxiety and confusion, Eve willingly let herself be drawn into a sexual relationship with the archangel. This was possible only because Eve, prior to the Fall, **could interact with the spirit world as readily as with the physical world through her spiritual senses.** It was a completely real experience. In her union with Lucifer, **Eve received his selfish and guilt-laden spiritual elements.**



William Blake: «Satan exulting over Eve».

When Eve felt fear, guilt and shame for what she had done, she went to her intended spouse, Adam, who was still pure. Adam could have saved Eve and restored her back to God if Eve had confessed to Adam what she had done. Instead, Eve, who had acquired Lucifer's selfish nature by uniting with him, tempted Adam and induced him to have a sexual relationship with her against God's commandment. Adam, though also feeling anxiety and confusion, willingly had this sexual relationship with Eve.



Thus, Adam and Eve consummated their relationship prematurely and with the wrong motivation. As a result, Adam acquired from Eve the same selfish, ungodly nature that Lucifer had passed on to Eve. Lucifer, for his part, was degraded and became Satan, the being who finds perverse joy in opposing God and destroying all that is good. The conclusion is that the Fall was an illicit sexual relationship, an unprincipled act of love between the archangel and Eve as well as a premature act of sexual love between Eve and Adam.

The results of the Human Fall

Because of Eve's unprincipled relationship with Lucifer and her premature relationship with Adam, the first mother and father of humankind established a lineage based not on the selfless love of God, but on the corrupted, selfish love of Satan. For this reason, Jesus said that fallen human beings are of

their "father, the devil"
(John 8:44).

Illustration: depositphotos.com @ levente

Adam and Eve acquired an inclination toward selfishness, which they passed on to their children like a hereditary disease. The consequences were tragic: Abel could not share God's blessing with his elder

brother, and Cain's jealousy led to the first murder in human history. This was the beginning of a cycle of hatred and violence that has continued to this day.

The Human Fall was actually the distortion and destruction of **true love**. True love for the sake of others was meant to be the very center of human life, the essence of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Instead, selfish love has become the way of human life and has created a kingdom of hell on earth.



DEGRADATION OF SEXUALITY

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Photo: depositphotos.com @ Lighthunter

Sexual relations were meant to be the most beautiful and holy expression of love between a husband and wife. This love should be eternal. Many people think that love is sex and thereby reduce both to a purely physical affair, whereas sexuality is meant to be the **fulfillment of love within marriage**. Today love has become so distorted that many people indulge in sex as a casual recreation. Because of the misuse of sexual intimacy, celibacy has been practiced in various religions as a means to come closer to God.

„This world has become one wherein beasts with human faces roam freely, even after violating women — grandmothers, mothers, wives and daughters. This world has become one wherein the swapping of spouses between couples is rampant. Such circumstances are without a doubt the pinnacle of the destruction of morality and the very last of fallen acts.“

— Sun Myung Moon (from Peace Message #8)

The degradation of sexuality has always been a tragic phenomenon, but the problem has perhaps never been so acute as in our modern age. While parents, teachers and religious leaders may strive to instill in young people the value of sexual abstinence before marriage, they have to contend with the formidable influence of the commercial entertainment industry, which often relies on sexual themes and images to attract a wider audience. **Adultery, promiscuity and prostitution**, with their accompanying disease and exploitation, lead to untold **misery and human alienation**. They cannot be eliminated by passing laws against them, nor can other sexual abuses. They are the results of the **original sin** and cannot be rooted out **unless the Fall itself is discovered and corrected**.

After the Fall, **God grieved**. After all of His efforts to create a beautiful and perfect world for His children, He lost everything when His children abandoned Him. He no longer could hope that Adam and Eve soon would become perfected, fully reciprocating His love. Instead, He watched as His precious children lived with corrupted hearts, orphans insensible to their parentage and ignorant of their own purpose. Humanity descended into a world of violence and oppression. This beautiful earth, which God created out of love as a home for His sons and daughters, was defiled and polluted.

The most tragic irony is that **in order to preserve human freedom and responsibility, and to maintain the absoluteness of the ideal of true love, God could not intervene in the Fall.**

Our Fallen Nature

Since the Fall, all human beings have been born with a selfish fallen nature in addition to their good original nature.

1

The first aspect of this fallen nature is that we have a tendency **to see things from our own, self-centered perspectives rather than from God's point of view**. This resembles Lucifer's failure to see Adam from God's viewpoint. Throughout history many prophets and righteous people have been persecuted and even killed because their contemporaries failed to see them from God's perspective.

2

Second, fallen people **perform actions that violate the responsibility of their proper position**. When Lucifer felt less love from God, he left his position as servant and sought an illicit relationship with Eve. When a man is dissatisfied with his marriage, he will seek to have an affair with another man's wife.

3

Third, fallen people do **not hesitate to undermine or attack others in order to gain more power and higher positions for themselves, and use any means to achieve their goals**. This resembles Lucifer, who, after refusing to serve Adam and Eve, reversed the hierarchy by making them serve his interests. This is the root of violence and murder.

4

Finally, people acting out of fallen nature **try to induce others to sin, in order to justify themselves**. Fallen people feel a false sense of security when they observe others acting as they do, and they ridicule anyone who strives toward a higher standard of righteousness.

Overcoming the fallen nature and the restoration of the original ideal

Every religion teaches its followers to overcome fallen nature, through precepts of humility, self-denial and unselfish service. Philosophy does the same, by teaching people to control their passions and work for the larger purpose, as dictated by reason. But the human struggle to defeat the fallen nature will have no end until the **problem of the original sin** is solved and humanity

can be restored to a pure, God-centered lineage.

For this, the world has long awaited the Messiah, a **new Adam** who, with a **new Eve**, can establish the position of **True Parents** and a family of perfect love.



Photo: depositphotos.com @ simonvange

In the next chapter it goes on.

Introduction to the Divine Principle - Part 4 explains, among other things, what salvation means for God and humankind, the mission of the Messiah and the reason he has to return.

The symbolism of the biblical Human Fall and its explanation by the Divine Principle



Symbols in GENESIS → DIVINE PRINCIPLE Explanation

Garden of Eden, the Paradise → Potentially good world, God's possible ideal

Adam and Eve → the first humans with free will and responsibility

Tree of life → Perfect man perfect in the sense of: Being physically and heartistically mature, Living in union with God

Tree of knowledge of good and evil → Woman with potential for perfection or destruction

Forbidden Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge → Eve's sexual love Used within God's Principle: good results
Used outside of God's Principle: evil results

Serpent → The fallen archangel, Lucifer

God's Commandment : "Do not eat of the fruit!" → Do not use your sexual organs/love immaturity!

Seduction of the serpent: "You can eat of the fruit!" → Enjoy your sexual love whenever you want!

Eating of the fruit → Sexual act (1. Lucifer and Eve, 2. Adam and Eve)

Covering their sexual organs → Shame because of transgression of God's commandment by the misuse of their sexual organs

Man's Expulsion from Paradise → God's ideal not realizable for the time being

SUMMARY: SERPENT = ARCHANGEL

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The identity of the serpent

In the biblical account of the Fall a serpent presented the fruit of the tree of knowledge to Eve. Just as the fruit is not a real fruit such as an apple or a banana, the serpent is also not a real cobra or a rattlesnake, but a being with mental abilities similar to those of humans.

THE ARCHANGEL, Lucifer

Which spiritual being among God's creatures would be able to communicate with humans, understand God's Will, and reside in Heaven? What kind of being, even after it fell and entered into a state of evil, could transcend time and space and subjugate the souls of humans? There is only one group of beings with such characteristics: the angels.

Lucifer - "carrier of light"

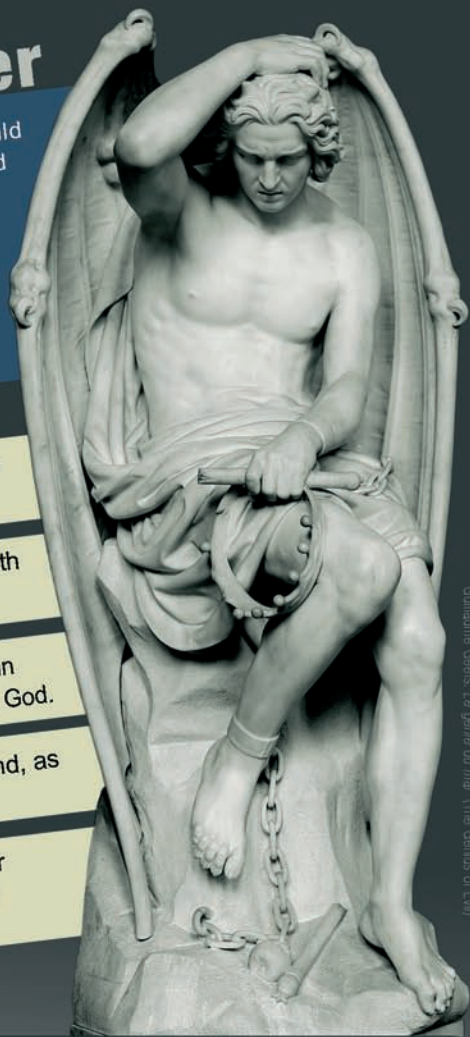
Created by God as a being of goodness; so he was not an eternal opponent of God.

Rebelled against God. Committed together with other angels fornication. Was banished.

Led the first humans to abuse their sexual love in order to destroy their potential for oneness with God.

Known as Satan, devil, ruler of this world and, as Jesus said, "Your father ..."

He is the enemy of humans, as well as their accuser and seducer. He is real, but works unrecognized through spiritual influence!



Guillaume Geiss, Le péché du mal (The Genius of Evil)

>>> Jesus said: «For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

—John 8:44

An Actual Incident

We should understand that the Human Fall is not a fairy tale. Although explained in symbolic terms in the Bible and other traditions, it was an actual incident, a misuse of sexual love that separated us from God's love and truth.

Order of Love

We should realize that love must follow a precise order. To observe or not to observe this order is a matter of life and death.

God's Pain

Rev. Moon wants to show us how much pain the Human Fall caused for God. Nothing can be more painful for parents than the suffering of their beloved children.

Redeemer = True Parents

We need a Savior, but not only a Savior as a man, who restores the position of Adam. It must be a Savior who restores the position of both God's son and daughter (a man and a woman).

Much Evidence

We should pray about it. When we pray and our eyes are opened, we can find evidence of the Fall everywhere. We recognize that we are always influenced by the Fall. We can understand why humankind struggles with selfishness, unable to realize true love. The contradictory desires in our mind make our life difficult to manage. We have learned that misdirected love can lead us away from God.

What is next?

This introductory series comprises 6 brochures covering the essential contents of *The Divine Principle*.



- Part 1 The Principle of Creation
- Part 2 Our Life in Two Worlds
- Part 3 Why Does Evil Exist?
- Part 4 Why We Need the Messiah
- Part 5 The Tragedy of Jesus Christ
- Part 6 The Turning Point of History

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Divine Principle is a new revelation from God to humankind. It has been received through and was systematized by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It offers revolutionary new insights into the nature and work of our Creator. Here we have presented an introductory 6-part series covering central statements of the **Divine Principle's** main subject areas:

The Principle of Creation

God's nature, His ideal and the principles of His creation.

The Human Fall

How evil came into this world and how it influences humanity.

The Restoration of God's Ideal

Revealing God's work of salvation and the principles of restoration in human history.

EXPOSITION OF THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE, the reference book on the Divine Principle teachings, comprises the following chapters:

- The Principle of Creation
- The Human Fall
- Eschatology and the Last Days
- The Messiah: His Purpose and the Reason for His Second Coming
- Resurrection
- Predestination
- Christology
- The Principles of Restoration
- The Foundation for Restoration
- Moses' and Jesus' Course in the Providence of Restoration
- The Time Periods in the Providence of Restoration
- The Parallels in Jewish and Christian History
- The Period of Preparation for the Second Advent
- The Second Advent



Sun Myung Moon (1920 - 2012)

Already by age sixteen, Sun Myung Moon had received his commission through encounters with the risen Christ and was continuing his lonely and prayerful search to find the answers to fundamental questions about life – profound insights that now form the systematic teaching known as *The Divine Principle*.

By identifying spiritual principles that reveal the workings of God behind human history and through the world's great religious traditions, a way is opened up to transcend traditional boundaries of race, religion and culture and move toward a truly 'unified' view of life wherein the spiritual and physical dimensions are harmonized.



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