
Fidelity

***Be Uncompromising
The Quality of Obedience***

Be Uncompromising

In comparison to the population of the world, at this time in history, there are very few Unificationists. In that sense, we each have incredible value to God. We must become loyal children to Him, resolving to live according to His law without compromise. In my understanding, to live "without compromise" means to be centered upon the Principle—to live a principled life. Yet when we compromise, we deviate from that base and as a consequence, become separated from God and spiritually isolated from our Source and other people.

Compromise severs you from God. But if that happens you may then become devoid of spiritual power. If you make a decision in line with God's law and then persevere until you achieve your aim, the power of God has to remain with you. But to compromise that resolve makes a base for Satan.

Whatever you do, do it with unqualified conviction. Make up your mind that your life belongs to God and that at all costs you *will* follow Him. That may involve putting aside the plans you had in mind for your life. But this determination is one we Unificationists have to make. We simply have to detach ourselves from the past. Yet when we close *that* door, many new ones appear directly in front of us. There is a whole new world of goals and dreams from which to choose. Replace your old ones with new ones, and ask God which of the doors He would like you to open and walk through.

Many new members are tied down with obligations from their former lifestyles. They claim that they want to avoid hurting anyone, so they still try to please *everyone* and in the process, confuse their priorities. Yet when they take this compromising position, they disregard God, which gives leeway to Satan.

We must surrender to God, not Satan. The highest obligation any human being has is toward God—not parents, spouse, children, brothers and sisters, friends, or employer. We all must become God's children of fidelity and filial piety.

If we work for God with one hundred percent determination, we will gain immeasurable benefits. Compare them with what the world has to offer. There is absolutely nothing in this world that can equal the gifts of God. Power and wealth acquired here on earth will not accompany us to the spirit world. The time will come when we will know for sure that being uncompromising was definitely worthwhile.

Make the decision to become totally devoted to God and you will stop vacillating. And that is when you will see that God *also* does not compromise. Once He has you in His embrace, He will hold on with all His might.

It is not possible to cut short the road to perfection. The shortest way is straight. And that means we must be uncompromising. Every time we yield to Satan's persuasion, we only succeed in prolonging our course of personal restoration. Yet these extensions could range from hours to days, weeks, months, even years. Any small concession forces us to stop and retrace our steps. When we compromise, we lose our previous foundation and have to become newly trusted by both God and Father.

Satan sees how weak we are in certain areas and with relentless pursuit, hooks us on those very points. Our integrity and our reliability is often determined by our ability to obey God.

Those who become humanistic and compromise living the Principle, no longer stay with God. Yet if you continue faithfully living the Principle, even though you may be considered orthodox by many, you will also have a great benefit—you will be close to Him. God explores the level of our devotion to Him more than any other quality. And it is one of the most important factors which determines the distance between ourselves and God.

Compromise only leads us to embrace a humanistic outlook and superficial behavior. Yet all people must eventually return to a life of filial piety, and strict adherence to God's law. But we will need to pay much greater indemnity if we have veered too far.

No matter how enticing the trappings of the world look, and no matter how much living a beautiful life here on earth appeals to you, the most pleasing things to God are our commitment to live a sacrificial life and our resistance to Satan's temptations. Life would surely be easier if we were to compromise in some ways—partially doing God's work, partially doing worldly work. But one thing is sure: God never shares with Satan.

When you compromise, you fail to divide the offering you bring to God. You hold something back. If there is even a shred of satanic quality mixed in with your offering of good intentions and hard work, God is pow-

erless to touch it. Our God is a jealous God, one who wants to be able to claim everything. He wants our allegiance. He wants our heart, our intellect, our emotions, and all that we possess. Therefore, we must make sure we verify the purity of what we offer God. He is amazing! He can discern even the smallest spiritual contaminant.

Examine your results over a period of time. That is the best way to discern how much you are compromising and whether or not you may have done something wrong. The consequence is that God will no longer be able to easily reach you. And He will not bestow His blessing if you compromise even a tiny bit. That is part of His law, and although our God is a God of heart, He is definitely *also* a God of principle and order.

Some Unificationists may be under the impression that they are following True Parents, but through their compromise of the Principle, their connection has unfortunately weakened. They still think they are on the side of God, but through their actions, they have already left His realm. Selfish or evil spirits could have already begun to work with or dominate them, and push them into the direction opposite from God.

But absolute obedience to God, True Parents, and the Principle through fulfilling the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance outlined in the Principle, is essential to our spiritual growth. And it will solidify our trustworthiness and fidelity. To be totally united with True Parents and live according to the Principle is the best protection against evil spiritual intervention.

If you are going to do any yielding, surrender to God, not Satan, and avoid substituting your own opinion for the Principle view. If you begin to do that, through logic and reason you may become too imbedded in your own opinion, yet still be convinced it is God's viewpoint. However, you may have already crossed the line of the Principle and be halfway in hell.

The only way to become a loyal child is to travel along the pathway of faith by following the Principle. We walk on the spiritual balance beam of the truth, and must be cautious that we swerve neither to the left nor right. If we do not sway, we are much less likely to fall off.

As soon as you compromise, the good spirits who had surrounded you will withdraw. When you compromise, you succeed in changing your mind and direction; so do the spirits. If you deviate from the main line of God's law, then whether you can recognize it or not, you give your allegiance

to Satan and rip it away from God. Compromise gives you one thing—it successfully drives you away from God.

Find your frequency with heaven and God, then keep that spiritual vibration tuned in. If I am using a certain channel on my car telephone but drive five or ten miles out of range, the reception fades. I find that if I have to talk to someone on my car telephone, the best thing is to park on the side of the road and speak while I am still well within range of the particular channel I am using, because that way I am assured of consistent loudness and reception.

We must do the same in our relationship with God. We need to stay tuned to the frequency on which we can reach Him. It is simple to say, but not so easy to do. Problems arise when we go away from God. We may think we are still on the same wavelength. We may still be tuned to the same radio band or frequency, but like that kind of car telephone, if we drive far enough away, it will fade out and we may lose the reception completely.

I would say that the small things which happen during the day are responsible for the deviations we make from God. You are able to exercise control if you know the right and wrong of a certain situation. But it is the seemingly trivial matters that easily get out of control. You don't always realize that you are in difficulty. It is the things that you don't even consider that may cause you to slip into a gray area—doing things not necessarily right, but not necessarily wrong. Then without even knowing it, you find yourself in a quandary. Spiritual awareness is the key to avoiding this and will help us to become uncompromising.

If you are submissive to Satan's demands, it may be that you have become spiritually inactive—tired and bored. Life in general, and especially a life of faith, may then seem too difficult to continue. If you withdraw, you will have a hard time tuning in to God because you lost the right frequency. And you then have the potential of retracting from Him.

The moment you compromise, you cut the lines of your faith and fidelity which connect you to God. Yet it is not always easy to repair those lines quickly. Compromise does not only signify a compliance through action. We can also make concessions through words. If someone has voiced a warranted criticism that you are heartless and unloving, think about it deeply. *Have* you been compromising your integrity? If you fail to give out love, can you automatically expect that you will receive some in return?

We are here to help one another come closer to God. That is the whole point of living a life of faith. We are not here to downgrade and accuse each other. By now we should have the conviction that we want to become healed and receive the saving grace of God. We want to emigrate from Satan's world and repatriate ourselves in God's.

God speaks through all of us. Therefore, we have to act in a loving way toward each other. If we can do that, we should certainly do the same toward God. God is within each of us. But it is a contradiction to pray, "To-day I really want to love You. I'll do anything You tell me, in fact I will do even *more* than what You tell me," and then turn around and verbally abuse someone. That is both unloving and a compromise of the Principle.

Even though many years ago we committed ourselves to follow the way of God, why are we still so tense and unfree? Compromise. It is because of compromise that we waver. Why is it that as a group we can often build up a tremendous power in prayer, but when we pray as individuals we lack the same momentum? If we really knew that spirit world was with us, it would not make any difference whether we were praying alone or in unison with others. We would not be at all reticent.

We will be successful in our prayer life only if we pray with consistency. A person who walks and talks with God can witness miracles happening in his life. We must be free inside in order to go forward. If we do not act upon something which we receive from God, we will be accused by the spirit world. Yet if we pray continuously, we leave very few gaps for Satan to invade.

Check whether you are compromising even in small ways. When we compromise, God has difficulty abiding with us. Therefore, make sure your heart is pure and your integrity intact.

We know the method; we know what to do. It is up to us whether we make concessions or exhibit our fidelity toward God. If we are too self-conscious, reluctant, self-centered, lazy, tired, indifferent, shy—either before God, people, or even ourselves—we may have a harder time to reach God in prayer. But I would say it is best just to walk straight to Him. Once you are deep in prayer, you are in. It does not matter how you got there.

Don't compare yourself or your experiences with those of others. Each one of us is unique and connected to God in a different way. Our ancestors and our circumstances differ. This factor naturally affects our experiences. But God expects fidelity from each of us.

Do not misunderstand the word "broad-minded." It does not refer to things humanistic in nature, but rather to the quality and capacity of heart. Be broad-minded rather than narrow, but don't confuse it with compromise. Any time you compromise, you open the way for Satan to invade. If you are an open-minded and tolerant person, you see with the eyes of God. You behold the entire universe and all of humanity with a different heart. You see the scope of the entire movement, not just its development in your nation.

Infidelity to God is a serious offense, greatly affecting your relationship with Him. But if you only look within yourself and mainly focus on your own small problems, you will find it difficult to be truly devoted to Him, and He may find it hard to depend upon you.

If you step outside the circle of restoration, you can stagnate and become unsure of what your next move should be. This halts your spiritual development. You may have one hundred miles to go in your trek to reach God. But rather than stay sitting, move forward no matter how hard it is. Push those one hundred miles behind you. If after thirty miles you feel like sleeping, realize that you are compromising. If you go a little bit off the track, you may ultimately become lost, go in circles, and never reach your goal.

Whenever you have those problems, do everything possible to overcome them. If you either brought them from the past, or your ancestors presently influence you, you will have to develop a very strong conviction to live according to the Principle and discover God's will for your life, but it can be done.

Go through your course of personal restoration step-by-step. You need time to make it one hundred miles. It takes a certain amount of energy to come to God. If you were to fly to Europe from New York City in a Concorde jet, it would take you approximately three hours to arrive. Yet if you were to take a conventional aircraft, it might take you roughly seven hours. The Concorde needs several times as much fuel as a normal jet and passengers have to pay much more. But if you pay the normal fare and fly in the conventional aircraft, you will still get there even though you will arrive later. Both are dependable means of transportation. Your time of arrival depends upon how much you are willing to pay.

On our way home to God, we need to become dependable. It is up to us which mode of transport we choose—we can walk, bicycle, drive a car, or even fly in a Concorde jet. Our time of arrival depends upon our conviction—how much are we willing to pay and how fast do we want to go.

Each of us should work on becoming a better and more "together" person, investing ourselves in whatever we do. Most difficulties and failures arise because we do not set forth certain goals and feel absolutely determined to reach them. We may deduce that we were busy all day, and yet be puzzled because we did not accomplish so much. We wonder what went wrong. If this has happened to you, why not replay all the events of the day in your mind; you will no doubt discover how and where you left God behind. You would see at which point your loyalty wavered.

Success will be gained by making a total investment. That is the law of God. There is no cause to complain about the people, conditions, or circumstances in order to rationalize why we did not do better. Those are just excuses. Somewhere along the line, we disconnected our wires through a point of compromise. We did not involve all our faculties. Our fidelity toward God became weak, and we laid a base for Satan to invade.

When we compromise, we lose spiritual power. And to gain it back takes obedience—as well as conviction, sincerity, and the right attitude. Of course we have to take responsibility for our family, but we must put God first. If we walk the route of devoting ourselves to God, then we will find the wisdom and means to cope with any personal or family problems. When we live for Him, we will discover the magnitude of God's own fidelity—to us!

The Quality of Obedience

Teach yourself to be obedient even in small things, for doing so will only increase the depth of your fidelity toward God. Yet if you opt for total independence, it is not possible to learn or practice obedience, because you don't have anybody to receive directions from or report to. One way God tests our level of loyalty is by observing how well we obey our immediate superior. It may be easy to pledge things to God and True Parents, but He looks at how dutifully we tackle the challenges of everyday life.

In the movie *Das Boot (The Boat)*, one man put the lives of all people on board the submarine in jeopardy because he left his post. It is similar for us; if one person makes a mistake, the whole mission may suffer and any

ensuing judgment fall upon and affect everyone. Obedience to the central person is paramount, especially in a dangerous or treacherous situation. Yet if everyone keeps the chain of command and remains obedient, chances are that all will survive. Will we be responsible for endangering the lives of others or will we be faithful to God? For this reason, it is important for us to constantly check our level of loyalty.

Do not compromise and allow Satan to penetrate your world, even in the seemingly insignificant things. Since disobedience caused the fall, the worst thing that any of us can do during this time of restoration is to disobey. If there is a degree of defiance living in your heart or conscience, work on submerging it through renewing and then strengthening your allegiance to God. If you feel rebellious toward God, True Parents, or your superior, stop for a moment and ask yourself why. Then ask yourself where it is getting you.

Father has taught us that God considers it important to cultivate the virtues of loyalty and filial piety. We follow God and the Messiah totally when we do not compromise: that is when God is free to bestow His blessings. If you would try to be totally obedient for even several months, you would see great results and most definitely feel God within your heart.

Disobedience is nothing more than a concession. People who do not compromise eventually meet God. But those who do, cannot be considered one hundred percent faithful.

Total obedience, total sacrifice, and total love" is one way to sum up the credo in this age of attendance to the Messiah. Total—without compromise, without reservation. That is the basic principle by which I strive to live my life.

I have discovered that if absolute love is given out, there has to be a response. You are able to conquer any evil power or any element of weak faith with the quality of a consummate love because it is a public and divine one. There is nothing selfish involved. And if people discover that you are unselfish and that you manifest love because you love God and humanity, they will be drawn to you, and they will submit to and follow you because of the love of God that comes through you.

But one way you come to be unqualified in your love is through total obedience, which has an infinite number of faces.

How can we sacrifice ourselves completely? It has to start through

obedience. If we feel exhausted or were exposed to many adversities, we must come to the point that even when we feel like saying, "Don't touch me! Don't even talk to me!" we can still be submissive to the higher purpose. Filial piety is an important trait to develop—fidelity not only to God and True Parents, but also our heart, the higher purpose, our superior, our mate and children, and people throughout the world.

Obedience brings strength, not weakness. It takes very strong and noble people to be subservient. Small-minded people find it too arduous to be obedient. It is the great people who can be dutiful to God. Even though Noah had very little way of communicating with God, he was obedient. Perhaps it was only through intuition that God told him what to do. Yet Noah was completely convinced that it was God who spoke to him and consequently he became a pious son, carrying out the commands of his Heavenly Father. As a result, God saved him and the members of his family, and through them, began the new dispensation.

The sins of omission are certainly grave ones. If we really want to come close to God and reach perfection—if we want to bring heaven down to earth—we must do our best not to commit sins of omission. We must carry out the orders that we receive from God and also be compliant to His will.

During Moses' time people were wild—undisciplined and rebellious—during their sojourn through the desert. They needed some absolute laws and God gave them the commandments through Moses.

We are in a similar situation. We are in the universal desert, and you could also describe us as spiritually "wild" and unruly. Therefore to be "tamed," we must become obedient and spiritually cultured people of true integrity and personal dignity. Developing those traits will surely help us to become more loyal to God.

It takes time to develop sensitivity. The most basic way to learn is by watching the behavior of people who live their lives according to the law of God. The law says that for restoration to occur, the payment of indemnity must be wrought. And submission to God is an important part of that payment. God gives us the opportunity to test our trustworthiness. He observes how we unite and with whom we unite. He tests how well we comply with the direction of our superiors. Disobedience brought the fall.

On the other hand, obedience ultimately brings salvation. To some, this may be a hard pill to swallow because they are accustomed to all sorts of freedoms. Some people may have even dominated their own parents. Yet when faced with the absoluteness of the Principle, they see that they need to change and then work toward overcoming any problems that stunt their spiritual growth.

We lack so many basics of both spiritual sensitivity and proper behavior toward God. Rather than continue to act as our society dictates, we have to learn manners which will please God. If you can honestly respect all people—not just intellectually but also in word and deed—then the problem is nearly solved. But if you don't respect anybody and cannot listen to your superiors, you will find yourself in quite a miserable predicament.

Conflict comes from disobedience. An act of defiance becomes an obstacle not only in your growth or for those in your immediate vicinity, but it may ultimately destroy a whole nation. A conflict in the government, for instance, can bring the whole administration and nation into trouble, and even into ruin. God observes to whom we give our allegiance.

Test your own level of obedience. Your conscience is one effective measure. Strength comes through unity because harmony is a basis upon which God can work and pour out His blessings. But obedience is paramount to achieving a oneness with Him. Through obedience, we will come to know God. If Adam and Eve had not fallen, they would have known God intimately. But because of their separation from God, they could never discover the totality of His nature. God desired to incarnate into Adam and Eve, but they disobeyed and He lost that opportunity.

It is our position to work in the dispensation of restoring this world to God. To do that we have to be obedient to the will and word of God and direction from True Parents. We have to be obedient to our conscience, to our leaders; there is a definite chain of command to follow. Unless we walk that road, we will never arrive at our goal of perfection of heart. Rebellion will ultimately hurt you. Those who become the true sons and daughters of God must restore the original act of defiance that took place in the Garden of Eden. And we must obliterate our devotion to Satan and instead purify our fidelity and offer it to God.

We must reform ourselves in order to be redeemed. And that entails obedience. I would encourage you not to approach God in prayer when

rebellion dominates all the emotions in your heart; He cannot accept such a prayer. The first thing to vanquish is the spirit of rebellion that resides within you. Unfortunately, it is one trait which we all inherited from our first ancestors, but if we are to become children of filial piety, it must be uprooted and discarded. If we can be humble enough to accept and follow orders whether they are given by God, True Parents, or a superior, God will definitely come to trust us. But His trust is not contingent upon a one-time experience, but whether or not we can accomplish this on a consistent basis. God will begin believing in us when we reinforce our dependability through continual obedience.

Unificationists dedicate themselves and their lives to God when they enter this movement. From that point, we should be obedient to any leader, to our conscience, to our mind—to everything. It is no longer a question of whether or not we want to, or whether we still have something to give away. Our loyalty is already given; we have already committed our lives. The point now is how to become even closer to God.

Work on developing total obedience, total sacrifice and total love simultaneously. Trying to fulfill one and then attempting to tackle the next does not work. Once you reach the point of giving out absolute and true love, you will naturally be obedient and sacrificial.

When you are told to do something, you may stop and question whether it is worth all the hassle and difficulty. You may disregard the words of your leader and just go by your own opinion. You may begin to analyze and reason why you should or why you shouldn't. To the Western world, the virtue of blind obedience is not a desirable characteristic to manifest. For that very reason, the idea of "freedom" has been so misunderstood and has caused further decline and decay of this world. Yet according to God's principles, freedom means fulfillment of the law, not simply doing as you wish. You are not "free" if you go against the law or do not fulfill it. Once you comply with the law, you can feel the wings of your freedom spread. That is the moment no one will be able to enslave you. If you fulfill the Principle and live according to the will of God, you will be spiritually emancipated.

We are not concerned with a temporary proposition; it has much more

to do with a life and death situation. We were dead and are now coming to life. But we are not yet totally alive. Although we may have received the Blessing, call ourselves Unificationists, and been granted the promise of salvation, our life of faith does not stop there. It is a marathon race that will go on for years. The duties of marriage and raising children last a lifetime. Unless we follow the Principle, we may become spiritually lifeless. Defiance and rebellion are two of Satan's trump cards and he keeps using them, stacking the decision against us. But when we obey *him*, we will surely disintegrate and may even die spiritually.

Why insist on your own opinion and just fulfill your own desires at all times? Just obey God and your conscience. This may sound absolute and severe, but Father has talked about this time and again. That viewpoint originates from within God; it was He who set up the spiritual hierarchy for us to follow. He did it for an infinite number of reasons, but one certainly involves testing our devotion, our fidelity to Him.

Obedience is the best indemnity. Can we subjugate ourselves and be totally obedient to God? Doing so reverses the mistake of the fall. Adam and Eve's disobedience was their biggest mistake. Therefore, absolute willingness to follow God's law is crucial. Arguing and complaining will not bring us a settlement with God, rather we just further submit to the demands of Satan. But we must take the order from God and move forward. If we fail to do that, we will have to be confronted a second time, a third time, and ad infinitum, until we are able to accomplish it.

Since we began our crusade of personal restoration, we have fought for our spirit to triumph over our body. Paul said that his inmost self delighted in the law of God, but the law of sin was in "his members." Do we have a strong enough desire to be with God? To do that, we need to implement the word of God absolutely. Total obedience is *total* obedience. It does not just mean that we follow our leaders only externally, but also with our hearts. All of us have listened to someone and meekly carried out the orders we were given, but at the same time inwardly rebelled. We have even done that with God, despite the fact our goal is to become a true and faithful son or daughter to Him.

If you do not understand or agree with what the central person says, it will take quite a bit to overcome your pride and obey. A person must be exceptionally strong to be obedient when his personal feelings are contrary to the direction given by the central figure. A person who knowz, the necessity of the Principle intuits that restoration can only take place if indemnity—through the act of obedience to God—is offered.

In cultures where extreme permissiveness is practiced, many people misunderstand freedom. They think that everybody can simply do just as he pleases—that it is our God-given right to be totally individualistic—and show little regard for others. That is a misconception. Freedom involves fulfilling the law, and that entails obedience.

Why is there so much argument and complaint about being obedient to a superior? If you truly love God and True Parents and really want to reach perfection, you willingly listen to the word of God and accomplish it.

Obedience is one of the words which is central to the restoration providence. Yet it is so hard to submit ourselves to someone else's ideas and intentions. We can give so many reasons why we do not want to obey—either God, the Messiah, or our conscience; in fact, anybody or anything. Look at the youth of the world today. The universal order is reversed because of the rebellion which took place at the fall. During these Last Days, it is an arduous task to overcome such an act of defiance toward God, especially one that has been imprinted deeply on our hearts. Yet God cannot help but shed tears of hope because of the True Parents' victory. True Parents have set up the conditions of perfect obedience to God. Now they encourage us to willingly submit to Him and to follow His law, becoming those lost sons and daughters of filial piety He has longed for since the creation.