

The Process for Married Couples to Become Blessed Couples

By: Blessing and Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA

The Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony is for all couples receiving the Marriage Blessing for the first time. In addition to engaged couples, all married couples are welcomed who wish to rededicate their marriage to God and each other, and experience the transformation and renewal of their relationship and lineage. This document briefly describes the process for married couples to participate in the Blessing Ceremony.

The Path to the Blessing for Married Couples

Due to the foundation that True Parents' and earlier Blessed Families have established, the gate of the Blessing has been opened to all couples that embrace the ideals and values of the Marriage Blessing. Married Couples who are Ambassadors for Peace, clergy of other faiths, associates, and friends or family of Unificationists are welcome to receive the Marriage Blessing with more simple conditions and commitments. We recommend the following, with the support of Unificationist mentors or pastors:

Step 1 Receive God's Divine Grace	Step 2 Fulfill Your Human Responsibility
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blessing Prep Education 2. Holy Wine Ceremony 3. Holy Blessing Ceremony 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Register & Offering 5. Chastening Ceremony 6. 40-Day Holy Separation 7. 3-Day Ceremony of Renewal
Blessing Couple	Blessed Couple

Step One: Becoming a Blessing Couple

Goals:

1. Preparation of Divine Principle and Blessing Preparation Education
2. Participate in the Holy Wine Celebration
3. Participate in the Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony

Explanation:

Through this step in the process the couple prepares for and receives God's Divine Grace through education, the Holy Wine Ceremony and the Blessing Ceremony. The couple then becomes a Blessing Couple. This simply means they have begun the process to become a Blessed Couple but are not there yet. This is a position to be recognized and celebrated. It also means we are responsible to support them in eventually completing the process to become a Blessed Couple.

Preparation to Receive the Blessing

- A. **Education** - the more education a couple has about the Divine Principle, True Parents, and the meaning and value of the Blessing, the more benefit their couple will receive. We should clearly educate all married couples about the meaning and process of renewing their position as God's sons and daughters. There are many different existing resources that can be utilized. One resource is a 17-minute video about the 5 ceremonial steps of the Blessing process and 5-minute testimony prepared for Non-Unificationist couples at: blessingamerica.org. All participating couples will complete the first two steps at the Blessing Ceremony, and we want to educate, encourage and guide them to complete the remaining three steps immediately following the Blessing, or sometime in the future when they feel ready to.
- B. A 40-day Blessing preparation period beginning 40 days before the Blessing Ceremony is encouraged, which should include education and spiritual conditions. However, if this is not possible, each couple can be guided to make conditions that they understand and which are meaningful to them.
- C. **Commitment to the essence of the 4 Vows:**
 - 1. Creating a family of which God can be proud
 - 2. Absolute fidelity to one's spouse - no adultery, no divorce
 - 3. Raising children to inherit these values, passing them on to future generations, practicing purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
 - 4. Loving all people and families of the world beyond race & religion, as God does.

Step Two: Completing the Process and Becoming a Blessed Couple

Goals:

- 1. Registration to be a Blessed Couple
- 2. Blessing Offering
- 3. Participation in Holy Wine and Marriage Blessing Ceremonies
- 4. Chastening Ceremony

5. 40 Day Separation Period
6. 3-Day Ceremony

Explanation:

Through this step in the process the couple fulfills their **human portion of responsibility** by completing their Change of Blood Lineage and completing their registration as a Blessed Couple. **The couple is now a Blessed Couple and any children they have will be Blessed Children.** This is the position to be recognized and celebrated. It also means we are responsible to support them as a Blessed Couple.

Completion of the Process to Become a Blessed Couple

- A. Through completion of online Registration for the Blessing the couple registers to be a Blessed Couple.
- B. The Blessing Offering is an offering of gratitude for receiving the Blessing of True Parents. The Blessing is of such great value we could not offer enough to pay for what it is worth. However, True Parents asked \$2000 from couples coming from Western countries. The first \$210 goes into a special Offering of Gratitude Fund for True Parents use. The remainder helps cover the costs of the Blessing Ceremony and work of the Blessing and Family Ministry USA to support our families. Non-Unificationist married couples who want to become Blessed Couples need to at least make the \$210 Offering of Gratitude to True Parents and should have the sincere heart to complete the remainder of the \$2000 Blessing Offering.
- C. Completion of the 5 Ceremonial Steps of Changing the Blood Lineage. We should clearly educate all married couples about the significance and the steps (conditions) involved in renewing their position as God's sons and daughters. The video linked above explains each of the five ceremonial steps of the Blessing process. Couples will complete the first two steps at the Blessing Ceremony, and we want to educate, encourage and guide them to complete the remaining three steps immediately following the Blessing, or as soon as they are ready.
- D. When the couple has completed their portion of responsibility they will be registered and reported as a Blessed Couple.

Follow-up:

All communities and Tribal Messiahs should take care that Blessing participants have been well-educated and supported before and after taking part in the Blessing Ceremony. It is important to create a welcome atmosphere to care for and encourage all guests, Blessing Couples and Blessed Couples to grow in their relationship with God and each other over time. The Blessing Ceremony and all the steps of the Change of Blood Lineage process are just the beginning. It's important we provide on-going support to each couple in deepening and strengthening their understanding and experience

of the Blessing. Ultimately these couples can be guided to become Tribal Messiahs, and multiply the Blessing to others.