

All Religions Emanate from the Same One Universal Source

In his lecture "How We See God's Perfect World" given at the Hong Kong International Seicho-No-Ie Convention in August of 1995, Rev. Masanobu Taniguchi, Vice President of Seicho-No-Ie, told us that the Seicho-No-Ie teachings could be roughly summarized in three teachings. These three teachings are:

- 1) The world created by God is perfect and harmonious, and therefore man is a child of God.
- 2) Our environment, destiny and our physical body are all a reflection of the mind.
- 3) All true religions emanate from one universal God.

The first eleven lessons of the Parenting Class focused primarily on the first two teachings. Therefore, to round out the class and the teachings we will discuss the third teaching in this final lesson. This third teaching draws our attention away from differences in the appearances and practices of the various great world religions and tunes our mind to the essence. When we do this we find the essential truths are the same. For example, in Christianity the golden rule, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 6:31) is contained within the second teaching of Seicho-No-Ie. You will find similar teachings, in Islam, Judaism and on and on. This is what Dr. Taniguchi is referring to in his book, "Kami To Tomoni Ikiru Shinri 365 Sho," p. 247.

Truth of Oneness of All Religions

The word unity of the Unity Church means that all religions return to one and must merge together as one. Thus, the teaching of Unity is similar to that of Seicho-No-Ie that all religions emanate from one truth. The difference is that Unity teaches only from the standpoint of the Christian Bible and does not expound on the Buddhist Scriptures or the Scriptures of others. Since Jesus the Christ taught the one and only Truth, there is no need for Christianity to be divided into many sects and when the essence of all teachings is taught, it blends in as one with the others. Thus, the Unity Church teaches how a person can apply the teachings of Christ and it should be said that it is a teaching that teaches the oneness of all Christian sects but not the teaching of all religions of the world. Contrary to this, Seicho-No-Ie says that the mysterious power that created man has created all of humanity and did not create a group of people different from other groups because of the differences in their religions. Therefore, the truth that is taught in depth that brings salvation to humanity must be the one and common truth to all. This mysterious power that created humanity may either be called God or Eternal Buddha. It is because all the good religions possess in them this common truth, those who enter the gate of these religions and proceed to their innermost truth, called the inner sanctuary, are saved. Those who have entered the gate but have failed to proceed to the inner sanctuary and failed to attain the truth are busy discriminating against other religions and are engaged in religious conflicts because of differences in the shapes of the gates. Those who continue to be caught up in the shapes of the gates have difficulty in reaching the inner sanctuary of the shrine of salvation.

Dr. Taniguchi has likened the Truth to gold. You will find gold in various parts of the world in ores that reflect the geologic conditions of the area. However, when you refine gold to its pure form, it is always the same. Therefore, Dr. Taniguchi has taught that there is no need to give up the religion of your family to study Seicho-No-Ie. When you study Seicho-No-Ie you will find that you understand the essence of your own religion better.

The important point is to apply the Truth to your life and that of your family. Whatever the particular difficulty may be whether one of health, prosperity or relationships, the solution is the same. As Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added on to you." (Matthew 6:33) This is the fundamental understanding that the world created by God is perfect and harmonious and we are his children. When we shift our thoughts from our particular difficulty and turn our minds to the infinite wisdom, infinite love and the infinite harmony of God's world, the world of the True Image, solutions come that take care of our difficulties.

In the same way, when our difficulty lies with another person, whether it be our spouse, our child, our neighbor, our boss, our colleague, our customer, patient or client, even if it is a government official or the employee of a large company, the solution is always the same. The solution is to look beyond the appearances of the moment and seek in your mind's eye the real existence, the child of God within. Beyond the hurt feelings, the inappropriate remark, the unfair action, the irresponsible behavior, the gruff exterior, the angry countenance, hard as it may be to believe sometimes, is a child of God. When we disregard the appearances and recognize them for the illusion they are, and then reconcile with and send love to the child of God in the other; solutions appear where none could be found before.

There is a simple truth that appears in the Divine Message of Grand Harmony, "When the whole universe is your friend nothing whatever can harm you . . . to be reconciled with the whole universe means to be grateful to everything in the universe." Jesus said, " And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely, this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30,31) This is the truth. It matters not what religion or denomination. What matters is how well we apply these truths in our family, our work and our life.

by Bruce Mallery