

Discover LORDSHIP Through lordship

Halleluia. To God be the glory. I thank God and your pastor for allowing me to preach to you today. And I thank all of you for the warm welcome that you have given me. I have been in the Philippines as a Korean missionary since 1993. I was invited as a representative of the Philippine's Christian Missionary Alliance to attend the General Council of the Christian Missionary Alliance in Orlando last week. Before we share the word of God, let's view a presentation of my mission.

As we saw in the mission presentation, there are a lot of pastors and members in the church. After experiencing Korean churches for almost 40 years, I conducted research and study into what a biblical church and faithful life should be in order to receive blessings while serving in the Philippines as a missionary.

We need to be a church who serves God. We have to follow only God and not the world. If we don't, we will become a worldly church. Most countries are either democratic or communist. Even Korea, the Philippines and America are democratic countries. However, the Bible says that if we practice democracy in our church, we will suffer a hard life. If we look at the church during the time of the Prophet Moses, we see clearly that we are to follow God instead of practicing a democracy. Even though our government, schools, and work practice democracy, we have to follow the Bible's instructions. Following God is what the church ministry and administration are called to do.

In chapter 13 of the book of Numbers, God instructed Moses and the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. Moses dispatches twelve of God's chosen people - the Israelites - to explore Canaan and report on whether they should inhabit the land. Yet when they reported back, only two were faithful and positive. The other ten were unfaithful and negative about what they had seen. Because of the report, they ignored God's promise to them and His order. They followed what the majority of the people, including Moses, wanted to do. If they had followed God's way, they would not have suffered all. Yet because of this disobedience, they would soon suffer from an arid land with bitter water, living like a scorpion in the desert for 40 years.

We have to learn to obey God and His way rather than just democracy. If we just follow the Bible, we will be successful in this. The Gospel of John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) If you follow the Bible and God's way, you have the ability to receive a Godly relationship.

LORDSHIP and lordship

Chapter 8 of the Book of Psalms begins, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens." (Psalm 8:1) The prophet King David knew that our father God and His son were Lord even before Jesus was born. According to Philippians 2:6, Jesus Christ was in the very nature God. But due to His ministerial position on earth as a man and servant, we refer to him as Lord with a capital 'L' and lowercase 'ord', not the all capital "LORD". Jesus was by his vary nature God. So, God and Jesus are our LORD. We have to continue building this LORDSHIP through the Bible and a biblical faith life.

Biblical lordship Between Man

Between Pastor and Congregation

In chapter 1 of the book 1 Samuel, we find the Prophet Eli, a servant of God, and Hannah, a member of his congregation. During the story she calls him 'my lord' – with lord all in lowercase. The Senior Pastor Eli didn't know about Hannah's prayer request or her style of prayer. If we compare Hannah's style of prayer in 1 Samuel 1:10 to Jesus' in Hebrews 5:7, we will see that both prayed with loud cries and tears. Yet, Pastor Eli was not their praying; instead he was sitting at the doorway of the temple. He misunderstood her style of prayer and rebuked her saying, "How long will you keep on getting drunk?" (1 Samuel 1:14) She replied humbly, "Not so my lord." (1 Samuel 1:15) and went on to explain her situation and her prayer to give birth to a son. As a prayerful member, she calls her shepherd, "My lord!" That is why God granted her a son, Samuel, through Pastor Eli's declarations, "Go in peace and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked for." (1 Samuel 1:17)

Let's fast forward to churches today. Would we call our Pastor 'lord' when he misunderstands and rebukes his congregation? Perhaps, but I think that many would criticize him and ask why he doesn't know the predicament of his members and pray for them. Yet a prayerful Hannah received the answer to the prayer through her humbleness. And her son Samuel grew into a great prophet of God. Even though he anointed both Saul and David as kings, he continued to serve as a judge over Israel all the days of his life. (1 Samuel 7:15)

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we have to recognize our pastor as our spiritual lord. This will also us to receive not only our promised award in heaven, but will also be blessed through our children and our work.

Between Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors

There is also a biblical lordship between a Senior Pastor and his Assistant or Junior Pastors. According to the book Numbers 11:28, the Assistant Pastor Joshua called out to his Senior Pastor Moses, "Moses, my lord, stop them." The Assistant Pastor referred to his Senior Pastor as lord!

God selected Moses as the Senior Pastor of the Israelites and He selected his older brother Aaron, older sister Miriam, and Joshua to serve as Assistant Pastors to serve the senior pastor Moses. We read in the book of Exodus 7:7 that the older brother Aaron was 83 years old and Moses was 80 years old. Yet in Exodus 4:16, God says to Moses that he will be like God to his younger brother. Assistant Pastors have to value their Senior Pastor just as they value God. We know this because it is Bible-based.

However, when we read Numbers 12, we find the Assistant Pastors – older brother Aaron and sister Miriam – speaking out against Moses and his Cushite wife because she is a gentile. They forget that Moses has been given authority in his position from God. The result is that God's anger burned against Aaron and Miriam, and Miriam developed leprosy. When Aaron sees this, he turns to his younger brother and admits their mistake and realizes that he is lord. So he cries

out, “Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.” (Numbers 12:11) Aaron discovered that such talk against his Senior Pastor is akin to foolishness.

When I was an assistant pastor in a Korean church, I saw many other Assistant Pastors value their Senior Pastor as their lord. They served God and they served their Senior Pastor. Before I studied these verses, I couldn't understand why they did that. I criticized them because they adored their senior pastor so much. But now I can understand them because they applied the Bible in their ministry and their church. Serve God through your Senior Pastor.

1 John 4:20 tells us that, “For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” So if you do not serve your Senior Pastor – whom you have seen – as lord, you can't serve God – whom you haven't seen – as LORD. Assistant Pastors, Elders, Encouragers, and Deacons – let's serve God through our church and our pastor. It will be a blessing for both you and your church.

The book of Hebrews 5:4 says, “No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.” As a servant of God, they had no other option for a job. God was their job. We have to respect this calling as our spiritual lord. Even if a very famous evangelist, revivalist or pastor came here to speak, they will not pray for all of you. Only your Senior Pastor will pray for you and your family.

Let's serve God through our church and its ministry. Let's serve God through our Senior Pastor.

May God bless you in your biblical, Christian life. Amen.