

/Hello./ We will now begin the sixteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ The passages today will be from Colossians 3:18.

/Let's discuss the fourth point, instructions for married couples. Verses 18-19.

/Read verse 18./ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

/This is an instruction given to wives./ It says, "Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."/ Unless the husband commits unbiblical acts,/ the wife must submit to her husband whether she want to or not.

/That would then be obedience to God's Word./ If the wife submits to her husband when he is loving and kind,/ and disobey him when he is unkind and unloving,/ she is being disobedient to the Bible.

/In Ephesians 5:23,/ it says, "the husband is the head of the wife."/ The head of man is Christ./ Of course, men and women are equal./ Yet, God placed the husband as the head of the wife in family order.

/Also, the husband must submit to Christ because Christ is the head./ The wife must submit to her husband, whose head is the Christ.

/Verse 19./ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

/This is instruction given to the husbands./ God commanded husbands, "love your wives and do not be harsh with them."/ It is right for the husband to love his wife and his is God's commandment.

/It is further written, "do not be harsh with them."/ Because men are a lot stronger than women, they can cause pain on their wives./ However, regardless of circumstances, believers must love their wives and not be harsh with them.

/Boys do not play "house."/ They would rather pretend to be in an army and become a leader among others.

/On the other hand, girls like to have horizontal relationships with others while playing./ They desire to be loved as well.

/Men commonly have vertical relationships with others./ Therefore, it is right to love his wife./ It is also right for wives to submit to their husbands.

/God commanded man to love his wife and not be harsh to her./ Likewise, wives must not be harsh to their husbands./ They must be patient, sacrificial, loving, and devoted to each other.

/Also, they must be a family that puts Christ as King./ Even if the spouse does wrong, we must become upright, make sacrifices, and serve, and then our spouse will become upright.

/We can show the love and kindness of Christ to our spouses./ We can learn the patience and forgiveness of Christ and demonstrate them to our spouses.

/Our spouses may return to God through our faith and good deeds./ When a pastor preaches on this topic in the church/ and say, “Wives, submit to your husbands,”/ many husbands poke their wives.

/They then say to their wives to submit to them./ Also, when the pastor says “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them,”/ many wives poke their husbands and say, “do not be harsh with me.”

/However, that is not a proper attitude in receiving God’s Word./ When God addresses “wives,” wives must accept his Word./ We must accept it as God’s command for us.

/We must not think, “Ah, I hope my husband hears this sermon,” or “I hope my mother-in-law hears this.”/ We must receive these sermons as God’s Word for us.

/We must accept these passages with the hope that we will live according to it./ We must ask, “Am I truly submitting to my husband?”/ “Am I truly loving my wife?”

/We believers must submit to our husbands./ In Chinese culture, the authority of women is relatively powerful./ However, it is right for believers to submit to their husbands to obey the Bible.

/It is easy to love those who love us./ Even a dog loves his owner./ Even animals love those who love them.

/We must learn to love those who do not love us./ The same goes for married couples. Not everything will be perfect./ They will see each other’s flaws.

/That is why we must open our eyes wide when we look for our spouses./ However, we must close one eye after marriage./ It is because we will see each other’s weaknesses.

/Believers must submit to their husbands in Christ’s love, and husbands must love their wives./ Some husbands may be more lacking than their wives./ Still, a wife must respect his authority as a father.

/When there is a problem in the home, a son may ask, “What should I do?” to his mother/ and she can reply, “Do it this way.”/ However, she can uphold the authority of the father by saying, “Consult this with your father.”

/If every family member respects each other in such a way, the family can be happier./ A family that constantly quarrels cannot become happy.

/Long ago, a father-in-law was picking a pumpkin from the roof./ The daughter-in-law was waiting on the ground to catch the pumpkins that her father-in-law rolled down to her./ The father-in-law told her, “Catch the pumpkins,” and rolled the pumpkins to her.

/However, because she was not able to see them well, the pumpkins fell on the ground/and broke into many pieces.

/Then the mother-in-law, who was cooking in the kitchen, came to the yard/ and cursed her daughter-in-law and said “Is it that hard for you to catch a pumpkin?”/ Then the father-in-law cursed her as well.

/Then the daughter-in-law replied to her father-in-law saying, “Why did you roll the pumpkins in the wrong direction?”

/While they were quarreling with one another, the son returned from the field and said,/ “You are all pathetic!” Obviously, this type of family cannot be happy.

/It is wrong for us to blame others./ If that scenario occurred in a loving family, the father-in-law would have said, “I am sorry, I have rolled it incorrectly.”

/Then, the mother-in-law would have said, “It’s my fault! I did not hold the ladder properly.”

/Then what would the son have said after he saw this?/ He would have said, “Ah! I am so sorry! If I finished the work beforehand, none of this would have happened.”

/A good family is happy and treasure one another by taking responsibility./ In this way, the wife must submit to her husband and the husband must love his wife.

/Now, let’s move on to the fifth point. Instructions for the fathers and children.

/Verses 20-22./ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

/This is instruction given to the children./ It says, obey your parents in everything,/ for this pleases the Lord./ It is God’s command to the children.

/Children must obey their parents./ They must obey in the Lord./ Anyone who does not honor his visible parents cannot honor the invisible God.

/God sent us to this earth through our parents and to be raised in their hands./ Therefore, parents have the responsibility to nurture and raise children according to God’s will.

/It can be said that parents come after God./ There is a saying that a king, a teacher, and parents are one.

/Because God nurtured us through our parents, we must honor God and obey our parents to obey God.

/In Ephesians 6:1, it says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”/ However, there are no conditions in obeying our parents. It is a must.

/Even though our parents may treat us unlovingly,/ and even if our parents are evil,/ we must honor them, even if we don’t participate in their evil deeds.

/Let me tell you some ways on how you can honor your parents./ First, you may share Jesus with them./ What a blessing it is if your parents can go to heaven instead of hell!/ This is how to truly honor your parents.

/Second, you must comfort your parent's hearts./ It is right for you to help your parents stay in a comfortable place./ If you have many siblings, all of you must make your parents stay where they want.

/In one family, the elder son was very rich./ The younger son was extremely poor./ The elder served his mother well and gave her allowances./ However, the mother always remembered her younger son.

/When her eldest son gave her allowances, she saved the money./ She wanted to give it to the younger son./ Then the elder son found out that his mother was giving money to her younger son.

/He said out of anger, "Why are you giving money to him? I gave this to you!"/ That is the love of parents./ One way the elder son could have shown filial respect to his parents was to care for his younger brother.

/One cannot carry out his filial duties if he fights with his siblings./ Even though one is poor, he can honor his parents and put them at peace if he lives harmoniously with his siblings.

/Third, you must clothe them with warm clothes./ There was a pastor who had an elderly mother./ She went to church wearing winter clothes in the spring.

/The son said, "Mother! Please don't wear winter clothes."/ However, when he got older, he realized that he spoke rudely to his mother.

/Our bodies become colder as we age./ In order for us to honor our parents, we must clothe them with warm clothes./ Fourth, we must provide them with food.

/Our teeth decay as we age./ Therefore, are aged people who cannot chew very well./ Their bodies grow weaker because they cannot take in enough nutrients.

/Therefore, we must provide our parents with good food that our parents can eat./ For sons and daughters, honoring their parents is the same as living out their Christian faith./ We must honor our parents while they are alive.

/In Korea, a ritual is held when parents die, in which the children bow down before their dead parents./ However, when believers die, our souls go to heaven and when unbelievers die, their souls go to hell.

/Hence, when people prepare a meal in front of the tomb and bow down, they are kneeling before Satan./ We must treat our parents well when they are alive.

/Also, the desires of dead parents are not to receive offerings./ We know that Lazarus went to heaven and the rich man went to hell.

/The desire of the rich man was that his brothers would not go to hell./ His desire was that his brothers would not go to hell even though he was there.

/Likewise, if our believing parents go to heaven,/ they would desire that their children would live faithfully on this earth and go to heaven./ Therefore, while our parents are on this earth, while they are alive, we must honor them.

/Also, if we want to honor our parents after their deaths, we simply have to live faithfully while we are on this earth.

/If we are faithful to the church and pastors, our parents who are in heaven will be greatly pleased./ Therefore, we must honor our parents while they are alive.

/Verse 21./ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged./ It is written, fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

/When we admonish our children, we must not discourage them./ Are there parents who want their children to go wrong?/ They all admonish and discipline their children in hope that they would live correctly.

/Yet, if disciplining goes overboard, the children may become discouraged./ It is indeed incorrect for parents to condone their children's wrongdoings.

/For instance, because Eli the high priest did not discipline his sons, they were all destroyed./ There are cases where parents fail to discipline their children because of their love.

/However, that is the best way to lead their children to destruction./ We must discipline and admonish when necessary./ If a child tries to touch a hot object, the mother pulls away the child's hand.

/In doing so, she prevents her child from touching the hot object./ As such, there must be clear instructions and discipline./ If there is no discipline, the child would not know what is right or wrong.

/A Korean proverb says that a thief of a needle will become a thief of a cow./ Let's say a boy stole a little toy from his friend's house./ Then, his parents must scold the child and give it back to the owner.

/If they overlook or even compliment him,/ he will delight in stealing other's possessions./ If parents do that, they are not properly educating the child.

/They must teach their child to live honestly./ In the Bible, it says that a whip is sometimes necessary./ However, parents must discipline their children in a way that they would not be discouraged.

/Some fathers whip their children out of anger./ Then the children do not know why they are being whipped./ That is not a proper education./ Children must know why they are being punished.

/They must acknowledge their wrongdoings/ and be punished./ Then after they are punished, the children must be comforted so that they would not be discouraged./ In many cases, fathers discipline/ and mothers comfort and embrace their children.

/In other cases, fathers and mothers punish their children together./ How would the children be comforted?/ Children must know why they are being punished and be properly educated.

/Also, parents must comfort them in order for the children not to be discouraged./ They must not think of their children as their possessions./ “You must become a doctor or a judge.”

/Parents must not force things on their children/ because of their personal greed./ God placed children in their parents’ hands to be raised properly./ Therefore, parents must properly raise children according to the will of God.

/That is why parents must educate their children to live honestly./ They must pass on their faith and fear of God to their children./ That is the calling of parents.

/Sixth point, instructions for masters and servants. Verses 22-25.

/Read verse 22./ Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

/This is instructions to masters and servants./ A long time ago, there was a huge social gap between masters and servants.

/Yet, now, a democratic era has come.

/Still, there are masters and servants./ There are employers and employees./ Therefore, we must learn how masters should treat their servants.

/In this verse, it says that slaves must obey masters not only when their eye is on them and/ to win their favor./ There was a deacon who farmed vegetables in a greenhouse.

/The deacon and his workers were packaging spinach./ However, the working speed of everyone differed./ The deacon worked faster./ The workers worked slower.

/That is because the workers did not work as if it was their own business./ They were simply working for their wages./ Therefore, I asked the deacon./ “Why are you working with the workers?/ Just leave it to the hands of the workers.”

/The deacon replied that if he did that, work would move slower./ When employers go away, workers often sit and talk without working./ That is why the employers must be with them.

/However, in the verse, it says it is wrong for employees to work diligently when the employer is present and not work when the employer is absent./ This means that employees must not put on a show of working./ This means that employees must work faithfully before God.

/Joseph was a slave in Potiphar’s house./ He worked faithfully in prison even though he was wrongfully imprisoned./ Joseph was a young man at that time.

/However, when the wife of Potiphar tempted Joseph to commit adultery with her, he said “I cannot sin before the Lord,” and ran away./ We must not work to please people.

/We must serve God out of fear and reverence for him./ In Romans 13,/ it says that all authorities are from God./ Masters are placed by God as well.

/Even though an employer hands the work to us, consequently, God is handing the work to us through the employer./ Therefore, we must realize that our work is from God and be faithful in our work.

/The steward will be complimented if he accomplishes the work that is assigned him./ Therefore, we must blamelessly accomplish our works before God so that we have nothing to be ashamed of.

/Right now we are discussing the instructions given to masters and servants./ There are three things servants, or employees, must observe./ First, they must obey the master, or employer./ Unless it contradicts the teachings of the Bible, they must obey their employers.

/Also, unless it is morally or socially wrong, they must obey their employers./ Second, they must use the good conscience./ They must use their conscience to stand upright before the Lord.

/They must not do things that go against their conscience./ Third,/ they must be faithful to the tasks given them by their employers by believing that they are from God.

/They must not accomplish tasks to look good before people,/ and then be lazy when people are not around./ They must be faithful before God./ They must think, “These are tasks given to me by God.”

/If they do their best in their places, God will surely bless them./ Look at Joseph. He became a prime minister of Egypt./ Therefore, even if we work in the lowest positions in a company,/ we must think, “This work is given to me by God.”

/If we work diligently,/ the owner or the president will acknowledge us./ “That person is very sincere.”/ Then God can allow us to prosper us through the employers.

/Joseph became an attendant in the house of Potiphar, in prison, and became a prime minister in Egypt./ Even though he was mistreated and imprisoned, he kept his faith very well.

/Joseph received God’s great grace and blessings./ If we were in Joseph’s place, our hearts would have been greatly discouraged.

/Some people bang their heads against walls when they feel they are treated unfairly./ However, Joseph considered such mistreatment to be a great benefit to his faith.

/There are people who benefit from entering prison./ The Bible is the most read book in prison.

/In prison, people read the Bible and endure trials and sufferings./ There are numerous people who repent and change, and become good people.

/Although Joseph was imprisoned unfairly, he became the prime minister of Egypt by keeping his faith./ Likewise, our lives on this earth is like life in the wilderness./ There will be many difficulties

/However, we must recognize God's providence in such times./ We must believe in the sovereignty of God./ God will train us and mold us through our sufferings

/Just as gold becomes pure when it is melted in the furnace,/ we will become better through those trials.

/Our faith will become stronger after we are trained through our sufferings./ As such, we must be responsible in obeying our employers.

/Verse 25./ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

/Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong./ Anyone who does good will be repaid for his good./ We know that God does not choose people by their appearances./ However, people do./ "He seems to work diligently!"

/However, our God does not choose people by their appearances./ He looks at the heart./ The same goes for the talents we have received./ The amount of talents we have been assigned is not what is important, but our faithfulness to the talents is.

/It does not mean that employers are more important than the employees./ It does not mean that the employees are worthless./ If we do good, we will be repaid for our good./ Our God allows us to reap what we sow.

/Our God is just./ He does not side with the employers or the employees./ He is on the side of righteousness.

/Therefore, whether we are an employer or an employee, we must live righteously before God.

/With this, we will conclude the sixteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.