

Hello. /We will begin the fourth lecture on pastoral theology. /At this time we will study Christian sacraments.

/7. A Pastor and Christian Sacraments. /Sacraments refer to baptism and communion. /Sacraments are holy ceremonies of the church that Jesus personally instituted. /However, sacraments do not play a part in one's salvation.

/One of the robbers who were crucified alongside Jesus was not baptized, and yet, he was saved by faith in Jesus. /Sacraments are special ceremonies that believers who have become God's children carry out in the name of the Trinity God.

/Sacraments are important because they are means of grace. /Historically, the reformed church considered the Word and sacraments important. /Grace through "the Word" is heard with the ears. /Grace through "sacraments" is seen with the eyes and performed with the body.

/"Sacraments" are also described as the Word seen with the eyes. /There are three marks of the church, and the first is the preaching of the Word. /Second, faithful administration of the sacraments. /Third, church discipline.

/Sacraments indicate the true church. /Therefore, sacraments are extremely important ceremonies. /A pastor must know the importance of sacraments, for he is conducting the sacraments, and he must faithfully carry them out. /First, let's discuss the meaning of sacraments.

/(1) The meaning of sacraments. /Sacraments consist of baptism and communion. /Baptism is related to circumcision of the Old Testament. /God made a covenant with Abraham, and God commanded that Abraham and his descendants be circumcised.

/In Genesis 17:11-14, God commands Abraham to perform circumcision. /In Genesis 17:11-14, it says that every Israelite male in the Old Testament times who was eight days old were to be circumcised in the flesh.

/Circumcision was a mark that one had become a person of God. /Physical circumcision was proof that one had become a person of God. /Before Abraham was circumcised, he was already a child of God who received salvation through faith.

/Abraham was circumcised as proof that he was a child of God. /Before God commanded Abraham to perform circumcision in Genesis chapter 17, Genesis chapter 15 says, "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness."

/In the Old Testament times, the Israelites were circumcised as people of God. Today, God's children are baptized as a sign that they are indeed God's children. /Baptism symbolizes purification of one's sins.

/However, the rite of baptism itself does not wash away sins. /One does not become clean

just because he has been baptized. /Our sins are washed away and we are made clean through faith in Jesus. /Baptism is the rite that symbolizes the washing away of sins through faith in Jesus.

/Next, the root of communion is found in the Passover of the Israelites. /The Passover is a festival that celebrates the Israelites' deliverance from the plague on the firstborn male in Egypt.

/When God delivered the Israelites through Moses, Pharaoh of Egypt continuously defied God's will. /Pharaoh kept the Israelites from leaving Egypt.

/Thus, God sent the tenth plague, the plague on the firstborn males. /All the firstborn males of both humans and livestock died throughout Egypt.

/At that time, God commanded the Israelites through Moses. /They were to take a lamb and its blood, and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses. /Then they ate meat of the lamb that was roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

/When God struck the firstborn of all the males in the land of Egypt, God passed over houses with the blood of the lambs on the door frames. /Thus, the Israelites who believed in God's word and took a lamb and put its blood on their door frames were saved from the plague on the firstborn.

/The Israelites commemorated this and celebrated the Passover. /The blood of the lamb symbolized the blood of redemption of the cross of Jesus. /The Passover rites commemorated deliverance from God's judgment by the merit of the atonement of Jesus.

/In the New Testament times, Jesus spent the Passover with His disciples before He was crucified on the cross. /Jesus took bread and said, "This is my body." /Jesus took wine and said, "This is my blood."

/Then Jesus commanded the disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of Him. /This in the New Testament became the root of the communion rite today. /The bread in the communion rite symbolizes the body of Jesus. /The wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus.

/Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-26; and Luke 22:14-20 record the communion rite in detail. /The Roman Catholic Church believes that the communion bread actually turns into flesh when the priest blesses it.

/The Roman Catholic Church believes that the bread actually turns into the body of Jesus, and the wine turns into the blood of Jesus. /This is called, "transubstantiation," and this is a wrong belief. /Followers of Martin Luther believe in "coexistentialism."

/"Coexistentialism" claims that the body of Jesus is in the bread. /We must understand that there is a clear distinction here. /"Transubstantiation" claims that the bread and wine

are actually converted into the body and blood of Jesus.

/"Coexistentialism" claims that the bread and wine are not converted, but the body of Jesus is in the bread, and the blood of Jesus is in the wine. /"Coexistentialism" is also an incorrect belief.

/When believers participate in communion with faith, the souls of believers participate in the body and blood of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. /This is the traditional faith and the correct doctrine. /Believers of the New Testament times participate in communion, and hence, they remember and give thanks for the blood that Jesus shed when the soldiers flogged His body, and Jesus' death for the believers.

/The Holy Spirit gives us grace through communion. /As a result, the faith of believers who participate in communion with faith are strengthened through the Holy Spirit. /Not only that, but communion is also a union between believers and Christ.

/When we participate in communion, the body and blood of Jesus works within us. /This means that we are spiritually connected with Jesus. /Therefore, when believers participate in communion, they must remember that they have been united with Jesus Christ and participate with thankful hearts.

/Furthermore, when we participate in the body and blood of Jesus, our brothers and sister also participate in the body and blood of Jesus. /Therefore, the entire church remembers and give thanks that believers have become united with one another in the Lord.

/Lastly, we must remember that not everyone can take part in communion. /1 Corinthians 11:27 says that whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin.

/Therefore, anyone who does not have confidence in his salvation must not take part in communion. /Even if one has been saved, but continued to sin and failed to completely repent must not take part in communion.

/However, one can repent of minor sins before God, and take part in communion. /Next, let's discuss how sacraments are actually carried out in the church.

/(2) The actualities of sacraments. /First, let's study how we must perform baptism. /Baptism is a rite that shows that a believer of Jesus has been cleansed of his sins.

/Therefore, before the church carries out baptism, they must carefully examine whether the person has fruit of faith from true faith in Jesus. /Generally, believers must be over the age of fifteen to be qualified to be baptized.

/There is an age requirement because one must reach a certain age to confess his own faith and resolve to live his life with faith. /The person must also clearly show that he has fruit of faith as a believer.

/Anyone who often misses worship services on Sundays cannot be baptized just because he wishes to be baptized. /Anyone who continuously drinks alcohol or smokes cannot be baptized.

/Other than that, anyone who says or does anything inappropriate as a believer should not be baptized. /Baptism is generally carried out twice a year. /However, baptism is performed in smaller churches when there is someone who should be baptized.

/Pastors should make baptism announcements a few months before baptism is performed, and the candidates for baptism must gather separately. /They must begin studies on questions and answers on baptism.

/The questions and answers on baptism consist of basic contents of the Bible. /For example, God's existence and creation, Jesus' ministry of atonement, the role of the Holy Spirit and his presence, and other questions and answers.

/The candidates must receive copies of the questions and answers on baptism and they must thoroughly be guided through each question. /In some cases, these studies can continue for several weeks. /After the completion of these studies, the candidates must be questioned on baptism.

/The candidates must carefully study the questions and answers on baptism. /The pastor performing the baptism must not simply ask questions from the studies, but he must take the opportunity to ultimately examine the candidates' faith.

/Then when a final decision for baptism is made, the pastor must then inform the candidates that they will be baptized. /Then the pastor must inform them to pray in preparation for their baptism.

/Baptism is performed on Sundays after the preaching of God's word. /It is good for the candidates to sit in designated seats up in the front. /The presiding pastor will call the names of the candidates to stand.

/They must then raise their right hands and answer, "Yes" or "No" to the questions asked. /The pastor will ask the following questions. /"Do you acknowledge that you are sinners who would have no choice but to die eternally without the grace of God?"

/"Do you believe that you cannot wash away your own sins, and that you have received forgiveness of sins through faith in the merit of Jesus who took up your sins and shed His blood on the cross?"

/"Do you resolve to rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, and learn God's word so that you would live by the teachings of Christ?" /"Will you submit to the jurisdiction and ruling of the church, and strive to maintain cleanliness and harmony?"

/When each candidate answers “Yes” to each question, the presiding pastor must say the following. /“Each of you has answered, “Yes,” to each question before God and witnesses.” /“We will now perform baptism.”

/When the presiding pastor goes before the candidates, an elder will stand next to the pastor with a baptism bowl. /The pastor will dip his hands into the water in the bowl and wet the head of the person being baptized, which then the pastor will say the following.

“I baptize you, OOO, a child of God who believes in Jesus Christ, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” /When each person is baptized, the presiding pastor will return to the pulpit and make a proclamation.

“OOO, OOO, OOO, and OOO have been baptized into the OOO Church of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in Korea, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.” /Then lastly, the presiding pastor must pray that those baptized will live in faith as they have pledged.

/Presbyterian churches generally perform infant baptism. /When one or both parents have been baptized, their child is baptized when they are under two years of age. /In the case of infant baptism, the parents receive and answer questions. /The parents stand while holding the infant in their arms, and they raise their right hands when asked the following questions.

“Do you admit that this child is a sinner in need of the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing of the Holy Spirit?” /“Will you look upon God’s covenant for the child, and strive to lead the child to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, as you yourselves have been saved?”

“Do you promise to completely devote this child to God, be an example of a devout believer, pray for the child, teach the child the doctrine of salvation, and nurture the child in the teachings of the Lord?” /When each question is answered, “Yes,” baptism will then be performed.

/The presiding pastor will dip his hands into the water and wet the child’s head, and he will state, “I baptize OOO, a child of Jesus, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

/Then the pastor will return to the pulpit and proclaim, “OOO has been baptized as an infant member of the OOO Church in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.” /The presiding pastor will pray for the infant baptized and his or her parents.

/After one is baptized as an infant, he will take part in Confirmation when he is fifteen years old. /A believer is baptized just once in his entire life, and hence, those who were baptized as infants cannot be baptized again. /However, when a person is fifteen years old and has assurance in his salvation, confesses his faith and resolves to live in faith, he will begin studies on baptism.

/When the pastor decides that the person is ready for Confirmation after he has completed his studies, the person will then be qualified to be a baptized member of the church. /The presiding pastor will have the participant of the Confirmation stand from his seat, and will ask the following question when the participant raises his right hand.

/"You have been baptized as an infant under the confession of faith and oath of your parents, and now, do you promise to faithfully keep and live by the confession and oath?"
/"Do you acknowledge that you are sinners before God, and deserving of his wrath, and have hope only of salvation through God's great mercy?"

/"Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and Jesus is the only One who can save you, as the gospel says, and will you put your faith in Him and rely solely on Him?"

/"Do you resolve to rely solely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, become a follower of Christ, throw away all sins, and live according to Christ's teachings and examples?" /"Will you submit to the jurisdiction and ruling of the church, and strive to maintain cleanliness and harmony?"

/When each person answers, "Yes," the presiding pastor will proclaim on the pulpit. /"I pronounce that OOO, OOO are baptized members of the OO Church of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in Korea, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." /Then the presiding pastor will pray for the new members, and finish the Confirmation.

/Next, let's study how communion is conducted. /Communion is performed after the sermon is given on Sundays. /All baptized members of the church take part in communion, and thus, thorough preparations must be made in advance.

/Communion must be announced to the members weeks before communion will take place, so that they could repent of their sins and prepare their hearts. /Pastors of bigger churches cannot lead common alone, so helpers must be designated in advance.

/The bread and wine for communion must also be prepared in advance. /The bread may be baked in the church, or bread can be bought from the store and cut into appropriate pieces.

/The wine can be made with grapes in advance, or grape juice can be bought from the store to be used in communion. /The wine should be poured into communion wine cups in advance. /Communion will be performed in the following order.

/The congregation will sing a hymn related to the atonement of Jesus, and they will together read Matthew 28:26-28 or 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, passages about communion. / Then the pastor will take the time to explain what communion is.

/“This rite is a ritual that our Lord personally carried out, where we commemorate and remember that Jesus Christ died for us.” /“Only the baptized members of the church can take part in this rite.”

/“Those who have been baptized today may also take part.” /“However, those who have been baptized or have confirmed their faith who are consistently committing sins and have yet to have repented, or are guilty in conscience may not take part in communion.”

/“Yet, if you have repented of minor sins and resolve to change at this time, you may take part.” /“Now, would all those who will take part stand.” /The bread will be passed around at the time and eaten after prayer.

/When the bread is passed around, the pastor will read passages of Jesus taking bread, or Matthew 26:26 or 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. /The pastor can choose to read the Bible passages first, pray, and then pass around the bread.

/When praying for the bread, the pastor may pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the death of Jesus’ atonement. /He may pray a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross.

/Then he may pray that the Holy Spirit would be with them at this time, and for blessings on those participating in communion at the time. /He may also pray that the believers would devote themselves to the Lord. /Then the wine cups can be passed around.

/When the cups are passed around, the pastor can read passages about Jesus taking the cup of wine. /A couple of passages on this is Matthew 26:27-28 or 1 Corinthians 11:25. / Then a prayer is prayed before the cups are passed around.

/When praying for the bread, the pastor may pray a prayer similar to that of the prayer for the bread. /When the cups have been passed around, the pastor will return to the pulpit and will sing with the congregation a hymn about the atonement of Jesus.

/Because communion takes place during worship service, it is acceptable for the pastor to give the benediction prayer after the hymn is sung, then end the worship service. /It is good to bury the leftover bread and wine in the ground.

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/With this we will conclude the fourth lecture on pastoral theology. /Thank you.