

**A reflection upon the loneliness of Korean elderly in  
family support: A Christian-pastoral perspective**

By

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the situation for generational conflict in terms of co-residence between the aging parents and their adult children in Korea. It investigates the history and problems of the intergenerational bond in Korean society and the Korean Church based on a hierarchical relationship. The study proposes a Christian approach about the intimate intergenerational relationship. In addition, it suggests the Church Round Table as a method for resolving the conflict. To develop this study, two kinds of methods, the first advocated by D Browning (1991) and the second by Rubin and Rubin (1995), are adopted.

In traditional Korean society, the duty of family members to care for the elderly is a concept known as filial piety. It has been commonly assumed that elderly people are expected to depend on their children in their old age. However, during the past decades, Korea has experienced dramatic social restructuring. This rapid modernisation and industrialisation in Korea has deprived the elderly of many important family and social roles. Whereas the elderly, who had hardly prepared for their own well being, expect to live together under their children's care, the adult children do not want to give full support to their parents, resulting in intergenerational conflict for family support.

To create an intergenerational relationship with open dialogue, communicability is needed to resolve the conflict between the aging parents and the adult children, namely the communicability of the Church Round Table, as adapted from the story of King Arthur's Round Table. The Church Round Table has three key issues: kenosis, equality, and reconciliation within all three participates: the aging parent, the adult child, and a pastor. In rule-governed interpersonal interaction by three issues, this thesis has developed by proposing the Church Round Table as place to resolve intergenerational conflict between them. To accomplish the claims, theoretical background and practical strategies are addressed in this study.

## OPSOMMING

Hierdie studie ondersoek die situasie vir konflik tussen generasies in terme van samewoning van bejaarde ouers en hul volwasse kinders in Korea. Dit ondersoek die geskiedenis en probleme van die intergenerasieband in die Koreaanse samelewing en die Koreaanse Kerk gegrond op 'n hiërargiese verhouding. Die studie stel voor dat 'n Christen benadering gebruik moet word, om die intergenerasie verhouding te interpreteer. Dit stel daarbenewens die Kerklike Ronde Tafel voor as metode om konflik op te los. Ter ontwikkeling van hierdie studie word twee tipes metodes ingeneem, die eerste word aanbeveel deur D Browning (1991) en die tweede deur Rubin en Rubin (1995).

In die tradisionele Koreaanse samelewing is die plig van familieledede om vir die bejaardes te sorg en hul te respekteer bekend as die konsep van ouerverering. Dit is algemeen aanvaar dat daar van bejaarde mense verwag word op hul oudag van hul kinders afhanklik te wees. Tydens die laaste dekades het Korea egter dramatiese sosiale herstrukturering ervaar. Hierdie vinnige modernisasie en industrialisasie het die bejaardes van verskeie belangrike familie en sosiale rolle beroof. Waar die bejaardes, wat skaars vir hul eie welstand voorberei het, verwag om saam onder hul kinders se sorg te lewe, wil die volwasse kinders nie volle ondersteuning aan hul ouers bied nie, en dit veroorsaak intergenerasie konflik vir familie-ondersteuning. Om 'n inter-generasie verhouding met oop dialoog te skep, is mededeelbaarheid, naamlik die Kerklike Ronde Tafel, soos aangepas uit die storie van Koning Arthur se Ronde Tafel, noodsaaklik om die konflik tussen bejaarde ouers en die volwasse kinders op te los. Die Kerklike Ronde Tafel het drie sleutel strydvrage: kenosis, gelykheid, en versoening by al drie deelhebbers: die bejaarde ouer, die volwasse kind en die pastoor. Deur reëlgeheersde interpersoonlike interaksie by drie probleme, het hierdie tesis die Kerklike Ronde Tafel as plek voorgestel om intergenerasie konflik tussen hulle op te los. Om die beweringe, teoretiese agtergrond en praktiese strategieë wat in hierdie studie aangespreek word, te volbring.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Old Testament	Abbreviation	New Testament	Abbreviation
Genesis	Gen	Matthew	Mt
Exodus	Exo	Mark	Mk
Leviticus	Lev	Luke	Lk
Numbers	Num	John	Jn
Deuteronomy	Deut	Acts	Act
Joshua	Jos	Romans	Rom
Judges	Jud	1 Corinthians	1 Cor
Ruth	Ru	2 Corinthians	2 Cor
1 Samuel	1 Sam	Galatians	Gal
2 Samuel	2 Sam	Ephesians	Eph
1 Kings	1 Ki	Philippians	Php
2 Kings	2 Ki	Colossians	Col
1 Chronicles	1 Chr	1 Thessalonians	1 The
2 Chronicles	2 Chr	2 Thessalonians	2 The
Ezra	Ezr	1 Timothy	1 Tim
Nehemiah	Neh	2 Timothy	2 Tim
Esther	Est	Titus	Tit
Job	Job	Philemon	Phm
Psalms	Ps	Hebrews	Heb
Proverbs	Pro	James	Jam
Ecclesiastes	Ecc	1 Peter	1 Pet
Song of songs	SS	2 Peter	2 Pet
Isaiah	Isa	1 John	1 Jn
Jeremiah	Jer	2 John	2 Jn
Lamentations	Lam	3 John	3 Jn
Ezekiel	Ezk	Jude	Jude
Daniel	Dan	Revelation	Rev
Hosea	Hos		
Joel	Joe		
Amos	Am		
Obadiah	Oba		
Jonah	Jon		
Micah	Mic		
Nahum	Nah		
Habakkuk	Hab		
Zephaniah	Zep		
Haggai	Hag		
Zechariah	Zec		
Malachi	Mal		

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