

Responsibilities to Our Leaders Pt. 2

•Hebrews 13:17 - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- Those who rule
- This is the same word for rulers as in Heb. 13:7 and 13:17
- People who are placed before us, who go before us, who command us or an overseer
- God has placed rulers over us, in this case pastors, and we are responsible to follow them
- Hebrews 13:7 - Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of [their] conduct.

1. Remember(Keep/Hold in Your Mind) Pastors

2. Follow(Imitate) Your Pastors

Obey and Submit

I. Obey Your Spiritual Leaders

Obey (one of two imperatives in the passage)

- Imperatives are commands, they're not something to be taken lightly

- Have trust, be persuaded, have confidence in

A. We are to be naturally inclined to following our pastors

- Our reaction after being told something from our pastor should not be “no”

B. We need to trust our pastors

- Teaching
- Counseling
- Testimony
- Desire for Our Growth

II. Submit to Your Spiritual Leader

Submit (second of two imperatives in the passage)

- To quit resisting, to yield, to give way

A. Submission assumes you don't agree

B. We are commanded to submit, against our own opinion

- submission is following even though you think it should be handled differently
- to submit requires us to put ourselves, and our opinion below that of our authorities

C. We are to submit first, and only disobey if it is against God's command

- This is very anti-“American style” where we have a mentality of not having to listen or obey someone if we don't want to or disagree with the person

- Acts 5:27-29 - And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,

saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.

III. Why Obey and Submit?

A. Pastors attentively watch for what is eternally valuable for you

Watch out – attentively watching (to the extent of sleepless), not letting your guard down

Soul – breath, the eternal part of you, the seat of your being

B. Pastors are accountable to God for their ministry

Who Must Give – delivering of something owed, a required returning

Account – explanation of a judgment rendered

C. A joyful account shows the benefit for both you and your pastors

Joy – to rejoice exceedingly

This is profitable – why?

- People are being obedient and submissive, which allows the pastor to minister at his fullest abilities to them
- People are living for God, they are living for something eternal
- It allows the pastor to minister to others, because the Christians are maturing, may need less guidance and can help minister

Grief – grumblings, sigh, groan

This is unprofitable – why?

- People are not being obedient and submissive, the body is not willing to be taught or to follow
- People are not following God’s Word in this way and are not allowing the pastor to minister them, stunting their growth
- The pastor is unable to minister to others and is not receiving support directly, in ministry, and is not being encouraged

D. We are to submit and obey because it is God’s command

IV. The Expectations of a Pastor

1. To be speaking God’s Word
2. To imitate Christ and so as to have a testimony worth of being followed
3. Know the needs of the flock
4. Tend to the needs of the flock

Summary of Responsibilities to Our Leaders:

1. Remember(Keep in mind)
2. Follow(Imitate)
3. Obey
4. Submit