

THE CHURCH
Part 4
Leadership in Community

1. Heb 13:7: “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. (1 Ths 5:12-13a)

a. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Leaders are to live out their lives in full view of their fellow believers. (1 Tim 4:14-16)

b. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our Lord is immutable, i.e., changeless. He is ever faithful and He is the standard we should aspire to reach.

- No one can ever measure up to the holiness of Christ. Paul told the Corinthians to follow him as he followed Christ. (1 Cor 11:1). Maybe it should say “follow me insofar as I follow Christ.

- Leaders are accountable: to God and to the family of God. As Christ is faithful and stable, so His servants should strive to be.

Strive to live a constant life

2. Heb 13:17-18: “Have confidence in (“yield to, obey”) your leaders (“they that rule over you”) because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.”

a. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden,

b. For that would be of no benefit to you.

c. It may sound odd but God calls us to yield to His authority exercised through His appointed means.

- Leaders have no remote. Yes, they have authority but except in cases of biblically practiced church discipline, compliance is voluntary. (E.g., 1 Cor 5, 2 Cor 2:5-11)

- Rejection of leader’s direction, if biblically given, does not work out well for a church.

Respect and yield to your leaders

3. 1 Tim 4:11-16: Leaders (and by this term Paul seems to be speaking of elders/pastors/overseers). They “direct the affairs of the church,” teaching, preaching, praying, counseling, admonishing, rebuking, correcting etc. They care for the spiritual needs and instruction of the body.

a. Teach the word (Act 20, 2 Tim 4:1-4)

b. Set the example for fellow believers.

c. Focus on the word - read, taught, proclaimed.

d. Do not coast - pursue your calling.

e. Be diligent to seek and serve openly. Grow with your flock.

f. Watch yourself - your life and doctrine (“teaching”) closely.

Do not sit on your hands - pursue Him who called you