

The Responsibility of Leadership

Hebrews 13:17 (Part I)

Reality Carp o5.24.o9

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Before I implore you to obey your leaders (and I only do so because the Bible does so!)

- I thought it would be fair to let you know what you should expect from leaders in the church
- This will be a two part sermon (this week and next)
 - Part I: The Responsibility **of** Leadership
 - Part II: The Responsibility **to** Leadership
 - I intend to hang us both out to dry (congregants and leaders)
 - Leaders first

Theme Statement: Leaders in the church have a responsibility to God and the church

Purpose Statement: To clarify for members of the church what they should and should not expect from their leaders

Outline:

- I. There are leaders in the church**
- II. Jesus is the Senior Leader of the church**
- III. Leaders' responsibilities to the church**

- I. There are leaders in the church**
 - a. Modern misconceptions
 - i. We don't need a leader
 - ii. Everyone is a leader
 - b. Biblical explanation
 - i. From Moses → Elders
 - ii. Hebrews 13:17 takes leaders for granted
- II. Jesus is the Senior Leader of the church**
 - a. 1 Peter 5:8
 - i. Making this real
 - b. A plurality of elders (Cf. Text must be referring to them)
 - i. They serve under Jesus
- III. Leaders' responsibility to the church**
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:27 and James 3:1 in tension
 - i. We are idiots but we are careful
 - b. Practicalities
 - i. This is what leaders should do—not what yours necessarily do do

1. They love and obey Jesus
 - He is our Senior Pastor, Lord, love and King
2. They are called
 - God anoints who He calls
3. Show you Jesus
 - Teaching, preaching and living
4. Point you to Jesus
 - Teaching, preaching and counseling
5. Servant-leadership
 - Christ and others
6. Purity
 - Sexual, fiscally (1 Peter 5:2 **not for sordid gain**), and doctrinal
7. Accountability
 - To God (Hebrews 13:17)
 - To each other as elders
 - To you as the congregation
8. Good Stewards
 - God's gifts for God's glory
 - God's money for God's glory
9. Take your lives seriously
 - You are not a lab rat
 - You are not just a number
 - From counseling to services
10. Take the church seriously
 - It is Christ's bride, not an experiment
11. To love the church
 - Build it up not tear it down (Eph 4:11-16)
12. Protection
 - Acts 20:28-31^a
 28 **"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**
 29 **"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**
 30 **and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.**
 31 **"Therefore be on the alert**
13. Practice church discipline
 - Some are not here
 - Some may go
14. Family before ministry
 - Eph 5:25 (Jesus loves the church, leaders should love their brides)
15. Real Lives
 - Aren't you glad
16. Imperfection
 - Only Jesus is perfect
17. Shortcomings
 - Jesus uses leaders in spite of leaders
18. Failure
 - That is human, not that disqualifies
19. Repentance
 - Private and public

20. Humility
 - Like Jesus
 - 1 Peter 5:3 **nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.**
21. Diligence
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
 - 1 **Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**
 - 2 **In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.**
 - Work hard; like you
22. Tell you the truth
 - About the Bible (Acts 2:27)
 - About your sin (Romans 3:23)
 - About the Cross (Colossians 2:14)
23. Availability
 - You have to believe our ecclesiology
24. Equipping you
 - To get you on mission
 - Not to do all the ministry (Cf. last week)
25. Teach you the Bible
 - Not entertain
 - Not to make you feel better

Keep your eyes on Jesus

- He is the reason and the head and the Chief Pastor
- It is not about leaders, people, personalities
- Worship, trust, cling to and exalt Jesus—not people