

# Sermon Notes

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## Right Response to Your Church Leaders

Hebrews 13:17-19

Christian Sanich, 5/21/2017

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

13:17 **Obey your leaders and submit to them.**

Obey - be persuaded by reasonable directions

Submit - follow the lead of those in authority

Leaders are supposed to be leading consistent with God's word  
- written word and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Yield to your leader on matters of opinion.

Leaders keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.

If you question a leader's character or behavior (Matt. 18:15-16)

Step 1) Need to go to them 1-on-1, ideally face-to-face

If you are not satisfied, then you need to take step two.

Step 2) Bring in some witnesses and have another  
face-to-face meeting

Without doing a process like this, it is not okay to merely ignore a leader, because you think they are behaving wrong.

Act this way so your leaders may keep watch over your souls with joy and not with grief, for causing grief is unprofitable for you.

Unprofitable for you in this life

Unprofitable for you on judgment day

13:18-19 **Pray for your leaders.**

Pray they would rightly understand and apply the Bible  
to ministry and to giving Christians counsel about their lives.

Pray that they would regularly seek the guidance of the Holy  
Spirit, would hear Him, and would do what He wants.

Pray that they would desire to live their lives rightly, according to  
God's ways, and that they would actually live according to godly  
behavior and character.

Pray that obstacles would be removed from them being able to  
accomplish what God wants.

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**What is your response to this?**

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Application questions for 5/21/17 sermon  
Hebrews 13:17-19

## **Right Response to Your Church Leaders**

Generally, what is your attitude about church leadership, and why? How do you think you generally respond to your church leaders?

Is there a particular instance you can think of that you think you responded well to leadership? For example, an individual leader or the elders were telling you something that went against what you thought, but you let yourself be persuaded by what they were saying, and/or you submitted to their direction? Would you share that instance, and how you feel about it now?

Is there a particular instance you can think of that you did not follow leadership of a church leader? Why didn't you? Do you think you had the right response? What was wrong with your response?

What do you think about the following statement?

If a person is appointed to a position in the church, that means they have some authority, and you should be willing to follow their lead - being persuaded by them, as long as what they are telling you is not contrary to the word of God, and yielding to them when your opinion differs from theirs.

For most people, when you agree with a leader it's probably not too hard to follow them. But how do you bring yourself to be persuaded by them, when what they are telling you is different than what you currently think?

If it wasn't already said, is there something from the sermon that would help with this?

When it's a matter of opinion, and your opinion differs from your leader's, how do you bring yourself to yield to them?

If it wasn't already said, is there something from the sermon that would help with this?

What might be exceptions to the principle 'obey and submit to your church leaders'? What should you do in those instances? Are you absolutely convinced that is what you need to do?

Does it ever cross your mind whether or not you are bringing joy or grief to your leaders? Do you care? Why? Do you think you will care going forward?

**(Make sure to make it to this question, and try to have everyone answer, even if it's only briefly.)**

If you already pray for your church leaders regularly, what is your practice? If you do not already pray for your church leaders regularly, will you start now, and what do you plan to do?

Do you have a question for the group? It might be something you don't understand that others could help with, or something you think should be covered that hasn't.

Bonus:

Was there anything new or interesting you learned in this sermon?