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**Follow The Leader (Part 2)**



(Hebrews 13:17 KJV)

*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

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ow can a congregation show appreciation to their less than perfect leaders? How can people in the pews care for the ones who care for their souls? How do you love a pastor in such a way that truly encourages him and benefits you, as well? Well, if you have your Bibles, I invite you to look with me at Hebrews 13:7-8, Hebrews 13:7-8, where the Bible shows you how to care for the spiritual leaders God has placed before you.

(Hebrews 13:7-8 KJV)

*7Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. 8Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

The pastor of a church is in a precarious position; he can't please everyone! It is not going to happen. Boyd's Bible Handbook prepared a list of difficulties that a pastor face based on garbage that has come from the mouths of church members.

* If he is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is grey, he's too old for the young people.
* If he has five or six children, he has too many; if he has no children, he's setting a bad example.
* If he preaches from his notes, he has canned sermons and is too dry; if he doesn't use notes, he has not studied and is not deep.
* If he uses too many illustrations, he neglects the Bible; if he doesn't use enough illustrations, he isn't clear.
* If he condemns wrong, he is cranky; if he doesn't preach against sin, he's henpecked.
* If he fails to please somebody, he's hurting the church; if he tries to please everyone, he is a fool.
* If he preaches about money, he's a money grabber; if he doesn't preach on tithing and giving to the Lord, he is failing to develop the people.
* If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he drives a new car, he is setting his affection on earthly things.
* If he preaches all the time, the people get tired of hearing one man; if he invites guest speakers, he is shirking his responsibility.
* If he preaches the Truth, he is offensive. If not, he is a hypocrite.
* If he preaches an hour, he is windy. If he preaches less, he is lazy.
* If his wife sings in the choir, she is being forward. If not, she is not interested in her husband's work.

As you can see from this list, pastors and their families need a lot of prayer and encouragement. In this final chapter, the writer of Hebrews closes the book with the issue of caring for the pastor and having a good relationship with him.

So we may take as a given that this church had leaders. And we may also assume that this writer of Scripture approved of that fact and wanted to strengthen the relationship between the people and their leaders. He is almost finished with his influence through the letter, and so he begins to turn the people's attention in this last chapter to their leaders. When he is finished, the leaders will still be there and will carry on the work of being teachers and examples to the people. Let's see what he says.

1. **Remembering Your Pastor**

(Hebrews 13:7 KJV)

*Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

We are to remember those who have the rule over us. What does this mean? The word "remember" is from the word mnemoneuo {mnay-mon-yoo'-o} which means "to think of and feel for a person or thing; to keep in mind; to make mention of someone; to remember." We are to keep in mind and be concerned about those who rule, lead, or who have authority over us and speak to us the Word of God. This is the specific leader being referred to in this passage. The writer is talking about the pastor or the overseer in the church.

An elderly woman walked into a little country church. A friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked.

"The front row please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" asked the woman.

"No," said the usher.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" the usher asked.