

Final Words: Valuing Church Leadership

Hebrews 13:17-25



Obey Your Leaders with Confidence (17)

- Church leaders are to be obeyed because they are trustworthy and possess God-given authority (17a)
- Further motivation for obeying leaders: they keep watch over your souls (17b)
- One motivation for the church leaders: they will give an account to God (17c)
- Further reasons to submit to church leaders (17d)
 - Obedience brings leaders joy
 - Disobedience brings them grief and is of no benefit to the flock

Pray for Church Leaders (18-19)

- A request for the author and his companions (18)
 - *“Pray that we leaders would lead holy lives to the end!”*
- A personal request for the author alone (19)
 - *“Pray that I might be able to come to you sooner!”*
- The implication is that we ought to pray for our spiritual leaders also

Closing Words (20-25)

- The author's prayer for his readers (20-21)
 - *"May God equip you to do His will"*
- A final charge to the brethren (22)
 - *"Pay close attention to what I have written and abide by it"*
- Personal notes (23-25)

Implications / Application

1. We must confidently, respectfully, obediently submit to our God-given church leaders, knowing that they diligently and tirelessly watch over our souls
2. We should pray for our church leaders, especially that the Lord would guard them in holy living throughout their lives
3. We should be grateful to God that our church leaders pray for us, that we will be equipped to do God's will so that we may please Him in all things
4. Thank God that our church leaders do not shrink back from exhorting us to pursue godly living in every respect
5. Thank God that He has given us church leaders who love us and who provide an example of faith worthy of imitation