

# God's Gift of Leaders

## A How To On Church

October 15, 2023  
Hebrews 13:17-19, 22-25

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### 1. You are to obey and submit to godly church leaders

- God has given various authorities.
- God gives authority to protect and bless those under it
- USA: Constitutional Republic - balance of powers; Government is to serve citizens, not citizens serve govt.
- Family<sup>Gen2:24</sup> Husbands authority to protect, bless & provide for wives and children<sup>1Tim5:8; Eph5:25ff; 1Cor11:3; 1Pt3:7</sup>
- Church; elders to oversee flock<sup>Act20:28; 1Pet5:1-4</sup>
- Plurality of elders, not single pastor
- Presbyterian courts protect church from sinful men<sup>Acts15</sup>
- Elders rule as shepherds who will give an account<sup>17</sup>
- Properly confront and remove sinful leaders<sup>1Tim5:19-21</sup>
- Submission is not a blind following<sup>1Chr16:22</sup> but be good Bereans<sup>Act17:11</sup> and check against Word.
- Interactions should be gentle and gracious<sup>17</sup>

### 2. Elders must lead and rule as they will give account

- Elders have a high job standard
- Elders should see themselves as undershepherds<sup>1Pet5:4</sup>
- Shepherding can be tearful<sup>2Cor2:4</sup> and difficult
- Goal is to see Christ formed in believers<sup>Gal4:19</sup>

### 3. When obedience and submission are practiced in church, joy ensues!

- Listen to the heart – let it be with joy!
- Constant fighting is burdensome – look to Word
- Remember Jesus purchased believers with His blood<sup>Act20:28</sup>

### 4. Your duty is to pray for godly church leaders

- God chooses to use sinners for His holy work
- Prayer is desperately needed<sup>Rom15:30-31; Eph6:18-19; Col4:3-4; 2Ths3:1-2</sup>

### 5. Your duty is to obey godly leaders by listening to their exhortations from God's Word

- Hebrews: a brief exhortation, wanted to say more<sup>5:11; 9:5; 11:32</sup>
- How to bear with word of exhortation?
  1. Pray for your elder during the week
  2. Pray for your own heart<sup>Rom10:17</sup>
  3. Read the Word in preparation
  4. Pray you will Listen well<sup>Lk8:18</sup>