

Sovereign Grace Church

“Responsibilities” outline

November 19, 2017

Hebrews 13: 17-19

The remaining exhortations in Hebrews 13 concern certain responsibilities of Christians and their leaders. The wording in the exhortation to obey and submit to those who rule over you carries almost a foreboding sense. But the same thing could be said for the vows a woman takes to the man she marries. Submission is usually thought of in the sense of trying to maneuver your way out of an antagonists wrestling hold. There is nothing voluntary about it. However, such is not the case with this exhortation. This is to be not only a voluntary submission....but also a reflective one. In context, the exhortation to obey and submit involves nothing less than choosing to follow Jesus as His disciple.

This passage also talks about the responsibilities of those who follow their leaders. They are not supposed to make the leaders life unnecessarily difficult but rather enable them to fulfill their obligations with joy and peace. This will have the effect of providing the environment where growth in Christ is the norm. But the most important responsibility people have is to pray for their leaders. This is true with all spheres of government and we have little expectation of successful ministry at any level without its heartfelt pursuit.

1. A note on biblical leadership

- Styles of Leadership Matt. 20: 25-26; Phil. 2:3
- Spheres of Leadership Eph. 5-6; 4:11; Rom. 13
- Limitations of Leadership Ac. 4: 19-20; 17: 11; I Peter 5: 2-3

2. Responsibility of the Congregation 17a,c; 18a

- Context 10:25
- Obey/Submit

- **Pray**
I Thess 5: 25; II Thess 3:1; Rom. 15:30
- **What to pray for:**
Ac 24: 16; Matt 7: 7

3. Responsibility of the Leaders 17b, 18b

- **Responsibility to watch**
Ezk 33: 2-9
- **Awareness of Accountability to God**
Jms 3:1; Matt. 12: 36
- **Need to maintain a Clear Conscience**
II Cor. 1: 12

Other passages: I Tim.5: 22; Rom 11: 1-3

Questions for Conversation and Reflections

- 1. What have been your experiences in a leadership positions? Do you think you were adequately prepared before you assumed leadership? What did you learn from the experience? How did the Scriptures inform your efforts as a leader?**
- 2. What have been your experiences as one who follows a leader? Did you find that the leader had your best interests in mind? Did it make a difference to you if he did not? What did you do that made your leaders work easier and more effective? How did you communicate any reservations you had about how your leader was leading?**
- 3. Why do leaders at the level of state have more access to coercive policies than do those in the church? What do you think makes a leader effective in both spheres of government? What makes them ineffective?**
- 4. Do you pray for your leaders every day? Do you think your prayers are effective? In what way? How can our prayers make any difference to the daily affairs of life if God has decreed everything that has or will take place?**
- 5. Do you pray for our church daily? In what way? Do you pray for our Church Council when they meet to conduct the affairs of the church?**

