

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 13:17-25

“Trusting our Great Shepherd” – August 26th, 2018



Introduction

When authority is used well, it creates, protects, builds up, and encourages. The football coach, Tom Landry, put it this way, *The job of a leader is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to be what they've always wanted to be.* That's the job of a loving parent, fair boss, selfless husband, encouraging coach, or hard-working elder. Leaders in the church are there to point God's people back to Jesus and use their authority in the hopes of helping them cross the finish line of heaven.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. What is the job of an elder? (13:7, 17)
- II. What is the job of the church? (13:17-19)
- III. What is the job of our great Shepherd? (13:20-21)
- IV. Why does this matter? (13:17, 21)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 13:7, 17](#)

An elder is to teach God's word, live as an example to follow, and keep watch over souls. Why do we need God's word when it comes to our instruction? What are the benefits of having *examples* to imitate? How does having elders keep watch over souls, help us to run the Christian race with endurance?

Additional reading: 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:9, Deuteronomy 8:3, 1 Peter 5:3, James 3:1

- 2) Read [Hebrews 13:17-19](#)

The church is called to obey, submit, and pray for their leaders. If obedience involves being persuaded by the truth of God's word that elders are responsible to teach, how should that shape the way we listen? What are ways we should pray for our leaders?

- Pray they are servant-hearted – following Jesus' example: He came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45)
- Pray they love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength
- Pray they believe God's word and teach it with love, courage, and grace
- Pray they lead pure and holy lives – fleeing temptation and obeying Jesus
- Pray they live lives of earnest prayer
- Pray they we have hearts free from jealousy or comparison

- Pray for wisdom and God's grace in the problems they face.
- If the elder is married, pray for his marriage – for time with each other, communication, deepening love, fidelity and faithfulness. Pray that God strengthens and encourages his *wife*.
- If the elder has kids, pray for his children – for their salvation, to love God, love church.

Additional reading: James 1:19-21, Acts 17:11, 2 Samuel 23:3-4

3) Read [Hebrews 13:20-21](#)

The 'God of peace' has unlimited power to bring peace to our restless hearts, peace in our broken relationships with others, and peace with God. When we look ahead...the race is long and riddled with dangers, hardships, and temptations. We must strive for holiness, hold fast to our confession of hope, and run with endurance to the finish. But when we look to Christ and hear the blessing of God in vv20-21, we strive, hold fast, and run with hope and confidence knowing God will lead us home. We know God's will by God's word – where have you struggled to obey what God has commanded? How does the benediction shape our obedience?

Additional reading: Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Corinthians 15:10

4) Read [Hebrews 13:21-25](#)

Notice the relationship between v22: 'bear with my word of exhortation' and v25: 'grace be with all of you.' God's grace comes as we hear and trust God and His promises. When elders labor for the joy of the church and the church responds in trust and cooperation, how does that bring glory to God? Why is it to our advantage to obey and submit to God's word as it's taught in the life of the church?

Additional reading: 2 Corinthians 1:24, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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