

***“The Sheep & Their Shepherd!”***  
***Hebrews 13:17-19***

**Introduction:**

1. Review - Been Looking At Our Practical Response To God’s Grace And Goodness!
  - After Seeing How Much Better Things Are Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Than The Old Way, You Are Told To Serve God!
    - And, As We Have Looked At Hebrews 13, The Springboard For This Entire Chapter Has Been 12:28:
      - “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear!”
      - We Need To Keep This In Mind As We Learn **How** To “Serve God Acceptably With Reverence And Godly Fear!”
2. How Can You, As A Christian, “Serve God Acceptably?”
  - 13:1-3 - In Love!
  - 13:4 - In Purity!
  - 13:5-6 - In Contentment!
  - 13:7-8 - In Faithfulness - To What You Have Learned!
  - 13:9-16 - In Heart-Felt Responding To His Grace!
  - 13:17-19 - In Fulfilling Your Responsibilities Toward The Leaders Of Your Church!
3. God Has Called His Church Together In The Form Of Local Groups Of Christian Believers For The Purpose Of Worship, Fellowship And Service!
  - This Can Be In Different Forms - Why There Are Presbyterian Churches, Lutheran Churches, Methodist Churches, And Baptist Churches - There Is Some Freedom To The Form And Function Of Local Churches!
    - But The Bible Also Teaches That Within These Different Forms, He Has Established Certain Offices In Order To Lead And Feed The Church!
    - There Are Pastors, Elders & Deacons Explicitly Mentioned In The New Testament!
      - And They Have Certain Qualifications & Solemn Responsibilities - Before God & Before The Church!
    - And So, To Maintain Unity & Harmony Within His Church, God Tells Those Within The Church That They Have Certain Responsibilities To The Men God Has Called & Placed In Leadership Within That Local Church!
      - Read 13:17-19!
      - “Them That Have The Rule Over You” - The Leaders God Has Placed In Your Church! Not Referring To Dictators, But To Those Who Are The Kind Of Leaders Found In 1 Peter 5:3 - “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock!”
  - Some Church Leaders Have Used These Verses To Show Power!
    - But We Must Remember These Verses In Context!
      - To The Supremacy Of Christ!
      - To The Service Of God!
      - To The Success Of The Church! (Spiritual)
4. As Your Church Leaders Are Faithful In Their Responsibilities Toward God – You Are To Be Faithful In Your Responsibilities Towards Them!
  - As Pastor, What Is My Responsibility Toward God & Toward You?
    - Among Others - 2 Timothy 4:2 - “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine!”
    - If I Stray From God’s Word, Your Responsibility Is To Get Me To Leave, Or To Leave Yourself!
    - But, While I, As Your Pastor, And Bob & Jon, As Your Elders, And The Deacons Strive To Preach, Teach, Live & Share God’s Word – You Have A Biblical Responsibility Towards Us, As You Remain A Part Of This Local Church!
      - And This Is What These Verses Address:
        - The Responsibilities Of The Church Toward Her God-Appointed Leaders – The Pastor & The Elders!
  - One Of The Pictures Of The Church Is:

- Sheep!
- Jesus Christ - The “Great Shepherd Of The Sheep” (13:20)
- The Pastor - The “Under-Shepherd” - Ephesians 4:11-12 - “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ!” - “Pastor” = “Shepherd”
- The Church - The “Sheep” / The “Flock” - Acts 20:28 - “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood!”
- The Shepherd Has Responsibilities Toward The Sheep!
  - However, This Morning, We Will Look At The Responsibilities Of The Sheep Toward Their Shepherd!
  - What Are Your Responsibilities Toward Your Pastor & Elders?

### **1. Obey Your Shepherd!**

- 13:17a - “Obey Them That Have The Rule Over You, And Submit Yourselves: For They Watch For Your Souls, As They That Must Give Account!”
- Your First Responsibility:
  - One Of Action - “Obey”
  - Meaning - To Yield Your Actions To Another!
  - The Shepherd’s Directives! (“Reprove”)
    - As You I Perform My Responsibility To “Preach The Word” & To “Reprove, Rebuke & Exhort” - You Are To Perform Your Responsibility To “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!” (James 1:22)
  - The Shepherd’s Discipline! (“Rebuke”)
    - When Sinful Character Or Conduct Is Addressed!
  - The Shepherd’s Direction! (“Exhort”)
    - Ministry Focus, Programs & Projects - Get On Board!
- What Will The Result Be When You Obey Your Shepherd In This Way?
  - A Good Standing!
  - When It States: “For They Watch For Your Souls, As They That Must Give Account” - See Two Challenges!
  - Challenge For The Shepherd!
    - To “Diligently Watch” Over You! In Prayer & Service! I Have To Give An Account To God On **How** I Have Been Your Shepherd!
  - Challenge For The Sheep!
    - But, I Will Also Give An Account Of **Who** I Have Been A Shepherd To!
    - What Kind Of Report Will I Be Able To Give About You?
- Are You Obeying Your Shepherd?
  - When I Preach God’s Word, Do You Obey It? If Not, You Are Not Only Disobeying Your Pastor, You Are Disobeying Your Lord!

### **2. Submit To Your Shepherd!**

- 13:17 - “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!”
- Your Second Responsibility:
  - One Of Attitude - “Submit Yourselves!”
  - Meaning - To Yield Your Will To Another!
    - It’s Not Just The Actions That Matter – It Is The Attitude!
  - The Shepherd’s Directives! (“Reprove”)
    - The Shepherd’s Discipline! (“Rebuke”)
      - The Shepherd’s Direction! (“Exhort”)
- What Will The Result Be When You Submit To Your Shepherd In This Way?
  - A Good Service!

- When It States: “That They May Do It With Joy And Not With Grief: For That Is Unprofitable For You!”
- How You Respond To Your Pastor & Church Leaders Has A Lot To Do With How You Grow As A Christian!
  - If You Are A Burden:
    - It Becomes Difficult To Serve!
    - And You Will Not Grow As You Could Have Or Should Have!
  - If You Are A Blessing:
    - It Is A Joy To Serve!
    - And You Will Grow & Flourish & Be Blessed In Return!
- Are You Submitting To Your Shepherd?
  - How Is Your Attitude? Toward Preaching, Serving, Changing?

### 3. ***Pray For Your Shepherd!***

- 13:18-19 - “Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. 19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner!”
- A Third Responsibility:
  - One Of Assistance - “Pray”
  - One Of The Best Ways To Encourage Your Pastor & Leaders & Enhance My Ministry To You Is To Pray!
    - Many Specific Ways To Pray For Your Pastor & Other Leaders - Two Specifically Given:
  - After “Pray For Us” - A Statement Is Made - One Of Confidence!
    - I Don’t Believe This Statement Could Have Been Made Without Their Prayers! Nor Could It Continue!
- What Should Be The Content & Will Be The Result When You Pray For Your Shepherd In This Way?
  - Purity In Character!
    - “For We Trust We Have A Good Conscience!”
    - How Important It Is / Yet How Difficult It Is To Have A Good Conscience!
      - Acts 24:16 - “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!”
      - It Takes “Exercise” & “Prayer”!
      - The Temptations & Trials Are So Great!
  - Purity In Conduct!
    - “In All Things Willing To Live Honestly!”
    - “Honestly” - “Good” - Excellent / Honorable / Transparent!
- Are You Praying For Your Shepherd?
  - “The Rather” - More Earnestly!
  - Because Of My Need For Your Prayer – And Because Of Your Need Of A Shepherd!

### **Conclusion:**

1. Not Only Does The Church Need Spiritual Leaders – But The Spiritual Leaders Need The Church & Your Prayers!
  - Without Your Faithful Praying, Our Ministry Will Not Succeed!
2. I Urge You To Pray For Your Leaders!
  - Pray For Our Christian Walk & Discipline!
  - Pray For Our Roles As Husbands And Fathers!
  - Pray For Our Grasp And Understanding Of God’s Word!
  - Pray For Our Preaching And Teaching Of God’s Word!
  - Pray For Our Times Of Counseling And Witnessing!
  - Pray For Our Times Of Direction & Decision Making!
3. We Need To Serve Together – As Shepherd & Sheep – For The Sake Of The Gospel Of Christ!
  - Each Of Us Has A Role To Fulfill!
  - Let Us Be Found Faithful In Our Responsibilities Toward Each Other!

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