



In Christ, God takes strangers and brings them into His family.



Leadership and the Church



Hebrews 13:17-19

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.



Hebrews 13:17-19

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.



Role of the Leaders



1) Keeping Watch

v.17b ...because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.



1 Peter 5:2

Give a shepherd's care to God's flock among you, exercising oversight not merely as a duty but willingly under God's direction.



Two Keys to Watchfulness

#1 Feeding the Flock



2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.



2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.



Evaluation Questions:

- Am I worried about what people think of my message or what God thinks most?
- Do I genuinely love the people?
- Am I accurately presenting this passage?
- Am I depending on the Holy Spirit's power or my own cleverness?
- Have I applied this message to my own life?
- Will this message draw attention to me or to God?
- Do the people really need this message?

Keys to Watchfulness #1 Feeding the Flock #2 Protecting the Flock



Acts 20:28-31

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!

Wolves in the Church

- False Teaching
- Hidden Agenda
- Stir Up Trouble
- Lead Astray through Sin



Leaders

- 1) Keeping Watch
- 2) Modeling Integrity



Hebrews 13:18

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.



Congregation 1) Trust your leaders v. 17 Have confidence in your leaders.



Congregation

2) Submit to God-given Spiritual Authority

v. 17 and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you.



Hebrews 13:17b

Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.



Congregation 3) Pray for your Leaders

v.18-19 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

