



BRANDYWINE TOGETHER



Preach and Teach God's Word  
Protect the Church  
Care for the Flock  
Model a Godly Lifestyle  
Equip the Church  
Pray for the Sick



How should a congregation  
respond to their leaders?

What does the Bible say about  
authority and power?

What if leaders abuse their power?



Hebrews 13:17a

*Have confidence in your  
leaders and submit to their  
authority...*



1) God hates abuse of  
authority.

## Ezekiel 34:1-6

*<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?’*

## Ezekiel 34:1-6

*<sup>3</sup>You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.*

## Ezekiel 34:1-6

*<sup>5</sup> So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup> My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.*

## Matthew 23:4

*They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.*

## Matthew 23:23

*You give a tenth of your spices—  
mint, dill and cumin. But you have  
neglected the more important  
matters of the law—justice, mercy  
and faithfulness.*



2) God will hold power  
abusers accountable.

## Ezekiel 34:9-10

*<sup>9</sup> therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>10</sup> This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock.*

## Ezekiel 34:9-10

*I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.*

## Matthew 23:35-36

*And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.*

1 Samuel 24:12

*“May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.”*



3) God is the Defender of  
the Victimized.

## Ezekiel 34:11-16

<sup>11</sup>“For this is what the

Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

## Ezekiel 34:11-16

*<sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. <sup>16</sup> I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.*



4) God is opposed to the  
rejection of authority.

Romans 13



5) God intends authority to be a blessing to people.

## 2 Samuel 23:3-4

*When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.*



How should you respond  
to your leaders in the  
church?

## Hebrews 13:17

*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.*



How should you respond to your  
leaders in the church?

-Have Confidence



How should you respond to your  
leaders in the church?

-Submit



When should members  
not submit to and obey a  
leader?



When should members not submit to  
and obey a leader?

-Abandons fidelity to God's Word  
Acts 5:29 - *We must obey God rather  
than human beings.*



When should members not submit  
to and obey a leader?

-Stops living life of repentance



When should members not submit  
to and obey a leader?

- Uses authority to abuse



How you can help your leaders?  
-Pray for us



How you can help your leaders?

-Pray for us

-Talk to us



How you can help your leaders?

- Pray for us
- Talk to us
- Support us



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