

HELP LEADERS HELP THE CHURCH MATURE

Hebrews 13:17-19, p. 976

- I. TRUST AND FOLLOW YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS (HEBREWS 13:17).
 - A. Trust them: If God placed them in leadership, assume they are sincere and express confidence in them (17a).
 1. A church is to be led by a team of elders (Titus 1:4 etc.).
 2. Elders and deacons must be spiritually qualified men (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).
 - B. Submit to them: Follow leaders; don't undermine them (17b).
 1. Follow them because they keep watch over you spiritually.
 2. Spiritual leaders must one day give an account to God for you as well as for themselves.
 3. Do everything possible to make their work joyful, not burdensome, because you will benefit also.
 - Don't be divisive, complaining, critical, argumentative (Philippians 2:1-15; 4:2-3).
 - Confront personally and biblically if they are sinning (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Timothy 5:19-20).
- II. PRAY FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS (HEBREWS 13:18-19).
 - A. Praying for leaders is not optional (18a).
 - B. Pray for spiritual leaders because they seek to have a clear conscience and to live honorably (18b).

- C. Pray for specific personal needs of your leaders (18c).