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Hebrews 13:7-17

⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the outcome of their conduct, imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be confirmed by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the Tent have no right to eat.

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Hebrews 13:7-17

¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come.

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Hebrews 13:7-17

¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name. ¹⁶ And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they might do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

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The Gift of Church Leaders

➤ Introduction:

- 1) the "priesthood of all believers" does not negate the need for spiritual leaders in the church
- 2) local church leaders carry on the function of being teachers and examples to the church
- 3) in the NT, church leaders are always described as a plurality (not singular)

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The Gift of Church Leaders

1. The Duty of All Believers

- faithful, thorough adherence to the oversight given by *your* local church leaders
- this command is for the protection and spiritual good of believers – an inviting duty!

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The Gift of Church Leaders

2. The Task of All Leaders

- a watchful care over the spiritual welfare of the church with the goal of perseverance unto final salvation (cf. Acts 20:28-31)
- the primary means of exercising this task is the faithful teaching of God's word in Christ and the setting of a faithful example (13:7; cf. 1 Tim. 4:16)

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The Gift of Church Leaders

3. The Motivation of Godly Leaders

- they exercise this oversight not for personal gain but in view of giving an account before the "great Shepherd" for this ministry
- the faithful endurance of believers produces joy in leaders, and the refusal to heed the shepherds' words produces great sorrow (cf. 3 John 4)

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The Gift of Church Leaders

➤ An understated warning

- a failure to submit to godly leaders (causing them grief) has severe, even eternal, consequences

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