

Spiritual Leaders

7-20-25

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the WORD of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

God has ordained Spiritual Leaders, church leaders, to shepherd, oversee, HIS church. God lists some of the qualification in 1Timothy and Titus. Here God tells us to continue to remember these leaders who have spoken the WORD of God to us. There is value in remembering the human agencies whose main characteristic is teaching the Word of God. Also, along with their teaching, we are to take special note of the *outcome of their way of life*. A spiritual leader's life should be a visual expression of Christ which we should observe and model. A leader's lifestyle will either confirm or disqualify his ministry. However, God will provide Spiritual leaders like the paragons of Chapter 11, who are people of faith and have remained true to their convictions through all the difficulties of life. These leaders continually pointed us to Jesus and live out their faith before us. Therefore:

Hebrews 13:17a (NIV)

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they **keep watch** over (literally - your souls) as those **who must give an account** (to God).

We should trust and submit to our spiritual leader's authority because they "keep watch" over our souls. God ordained spiritual leaders, church leaders, have the responsibility for the spiritual well-being of the church body. Church leaders are concerned for the deep needs of the people, not simply for what lies on the surface. Their oversight deals with matters of the heart and one's relationship with Jesus. The fact is, **"they should be concerned," because they will be required to give an account to God. This same accountability was required in Ezekiel where the spiritual leaders were called watchmen. God said:**

Ezekiel 33:6 (NIV)

If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people, **I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.**

In the NT we see the Apostle Paul, communicate the same church leadership responsibilities. Listen closely. This is a description for NT spiritual leaders, church leaders.

Acts 20:26-28 (NIV) NO/OH

²⁶Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

²⁸Keep 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.

Church leadership is a great responsibility with serious accountability.

James 3:1 (NIV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Spiritual leaders, church leaders, keep watch over your souls. Therefore, you should submit to their authority knowing they must give an account to God for their ministry.

Hebrews 13:17b (NIV)

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

Be a joy not a burden to church leaders, because they take joy overseeing the Body of Christ, the church. John said:

3John 4 NO/OH

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Paul said:

1Thes.2:20 (NIV) NO/OH

Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

Thus, saith the LORD, “The congregation should not make a church leader’s life miserable.”

Seriously, they must recognize the responsibility that lies upon the shoulders of spiritual leaders.

Spiritual leaders are Christ’s servants.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.