

A CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS LEADERS:

REMEMBER THOSE WHO LED YOU & IMITATE THEIR FAITH

INTRODUCTION

Christian leaders are a gift to the church. We do not always look at it this way but you are the person you are today because of the Godly pastors / teachers that the Lord has placed into your life which is why it is important to know how to respond to them correctly. The Author of Hebrews shows us how to do that with 4 ways that a church needs to respond to its leadership.

1). Remember Your Leaders (verse 7).

Why?

Because many of them are not alive anymore. They have died and gone home to be with the Lord or been arrested and thrown into prison. So you have a responsibility to uphold their memory by recalling the things that they have taught you in the Bible. As a way to apply this first point, you need to remember the sermons that they preached along with the Bible Studies, lessons, and classes that they blessed you with.

2). Imitate Your Leaders (verse 7).

Why?

Because, in order to grow as a Christian, we all need people who have gone before us so we can learn from their example. Yes, you should follow someone who teaches the Word of God to you publicly but you should also follow someone who models it privately as well. Some people struggle with this because their church is so big that they do not have any access to their leaders privately but it should not be that way. The church needs to make its leaders accessible.

(Discussion Question: What are some ways that you have access to your leaders at MFBC? How are you taking advantage of that?)

3. Obey and Submit to Your Leaders (verse 17).

Why?

Because you ultimately submit to Jesus Christ and, as you do, you want to submit to the men that He has placed over His church. After all, you do not come to church in order to follow your earthly leaders first. You come to follow Him and, if this is a command that He has given you, you want to uphold that even though it is difficult at times because your leaders are fallen men.

(Discussion Question: Can you think of some times when it has been difficult to submit to your leaders? How does the phrase “for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account” help?)

4. Let Them Do Their Work with Joy and Not with Grief (verse 17).

Why?

Because you can steal a leader’s joy away. Your leaders are men and nothing more. They are not robots. They are susceptible to the same high’s and low’s as the rest of us so you want to be seek to encourage them any way that you can.

(Discussion Question: As a pastor, I believe Meridian First Baptist does a very good job of encouraging its leaders but why do you think that is? What is it about this congregation that makes it such a joyful place to be?)