

YOU NEED BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

HEBREWS 13:17

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - NOVEMBER 20, 2022

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

(From *12 Traits of a Biblical Church*)

A church is characterized by biblical leadership. The Bible recognizes two types of leaders in the church: pastors/elders/overseers and deacons/deaconesses. In the New Testament, the words pastor, elder, and overseer are used interchangeably, and refer to the same office. The qualifications for these leaders are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They must be examples of faithful discipleship, and they must hold firmly to sound doctrine. They lead under the authority of Christ, teach the Word of Christ, care for the body of Christ, and model the character of Christ. According to Scripture, pastors/elders/overseers must be men. Scripture is clear that not everyone is gifted and called to teach and lead in the church, but all gifts are equally honorable and equally necessary to the church. The consistent pattern in the New Testament is for churches to have a plurality of pastors/elders/overseers. Deacons/Deaconesses are servants of the church whose qualifications are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They meet needs according to God's Word, support the ministry of the Word, and unify the church around the Word. In order to be a biblical church, MBC must appoint, affirm, follow, and pray for biblical leaders across the church.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13:17 ESV

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

SERMON RECAP

The Bible is not promoting—

1. Absolute obedience to authoritarian leadership;
2. Abuse of power; or
3. Acknowledgment of inequality.

The whole point of leadership in the church is to point people in the church to Jesus.

1. We need leaders who speak the Word of God to us faithfully and continually.
2. We need leaders who imitate the life of Jesus helpfully and humbly.
3. We need leaders who care for us responsibly and joyfully.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Think of a leader in the body of Christ who proved, by their character and competency, to be a faithful Biblical leader. How did the LORD work through them to shape and grow your faith and deepen your worship of Him?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. In multiple Bible translations, read Hebrews 13:17 aloud as a group. Take some time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage

- or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

What does the passage mean?

1. Review the immediate context of today's passage.
 - Read Hebrews 13:1-7. What expressions of brotherly love are reflected in this passage? What is the basis of these expressions of brotherly love (cf. Hebrews 12:18-29, 13:8 and 13:10-12)?
 - Read Hebrews 12:28 and 13:15-16. In these passages, we are invited to offer God acceptable worship and a sacrifice of praise that is pleasing to Him. How might these 'bookend' passages shed light on the significance of the expressions of brotherly love reflected between them?
 - Read Hebrews 13:9, 20-21 (cf. Ephesians 3:7-10). What are some outcomes of sound Biblical teaching and obedience in the body of Christ?
 - Focus on the form of brotherly love presented in Hebrews 13:7. Considering your previous observations, what significance might the surrounding scriptural context give to this specific verse?
 - Read Hebrews 13:17. How might your observations on its surrounding context shape your understanding of this verse?
2. Based on today's passage and its context, why does the LORD desire true Biblical leadership, and obedience to it, amongst the members of His body?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. How or when has your relationship with the LORD or His Church been challenged by unbiblical leaders in a church? How might these challenges actually confirm your need for sound leaders who lovingly, selflessly, caringly, and biblically lead you to know Jesus truly and follow Him wholeheartedly?
2. Review the character and competency descriptors of sound Biblical leaders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 9-13 and Titus 1:5-9. (Take note also of the cautions in James 3:1-2 and 1 Peter 5:1-3, 8-9):
 - Considering the importance and outcome of sound Biblical leadership in the church, how might the LORD work through you to recognize and encourage this kind of leadership in the church?
 - Considering the importance and outcome of sound Biblical leadership in the church, how might the LORD be working in you to become this kind of leader in the church?
3. For you personally, as you strive to steward your membership in His church well, what might it look like for you to follow the LORD ultimately and, by His grace, follow Biblical church leaders faithfully?

LEADER NOTES

Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group:

1. Visit the [Global Outreach Weekly Prayer Focus](#) each week to learn about an unreached region of world and the ways we can join together in prayer for them. You can see the full 2022 Global Outreach Prayer Guide [HERE](#).
2. Looking to serve? Check out mcleanbible.org/localoutreach for ideas and to register your event, or contact us at localoutreach@mcleanbible.org for additional assistance.
3. You are invited to join MBC Tysons on December 3 for a Christmas party & cookie packing. There will be lots of fun activities for the whole family, including games, music, hot chocolate, crafts, and a bounce house! For more information and to register, please go to mcleanbible.org/events.