

WHAT WE AS A CHURCH CAN DO FOR OUR LEADERS

1. Text: I Thessalonians 5:12-13
2. What can we as members of the church do for our leaders? Three main passages present five basic actions.

I. **We Should Know Them.**

1. I Thessalonians 5:12 Know includes recognize, understand, acquaint yourself with.
2. The verse names three things to know: they labor, strife, struggle in weary, tiresome work (work in verse 13 too).
3. They are “over us in the Lord” in concerned, caring rule, direction, managing.
4. They admonish (instruct, warn) us. (Like Acts 20:31)
5. Do you know our leaders?

II. **We Should Esteem Them.**

1. See 5:13. Esteem, respect them.
2. I Timothy 5:17 Honor your rulers with double honor (who labor in word and doctrine).
3. Esteem “quite beyond measure (highest form of comparison imaginable)” See Ephesians 3:20.
4. “In love”
5. We should also protect their reputation. I Timothy 5:19 commands us to reject any accusation against an Elder unless at least two witnesses support it.
6. Are we esteeming or criticizing, murmuring, hindering, challenging, demeaning?

III. **We Should Be At Peace Among Ourselves.**

1. Again I Thessalonians 5:13 states this.
2. Point: No one has the right to be stirring up trouble, causing confusion and conflict, creating turmoil, tension, trouble.
3. The troublemakers should be admonished to stop and repent by those who know them. Don’t share in their sins. (I Timothy 5:22)
4. Are you a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9) who helps the church work and the Elders lead?

IV. **We Should Obey And Submit.**

1. See Hebrews 13:17 “Obey those who rule over you and be submissive.”
2. Obey or follow (may be more in realm of action) and submit or yield, give way to (may be more in realm of attitude).
3. In a local congregation vast array of decisions and activities come in area of expediency, human judgment. Leaders must make choices for us. Doctrinal issues are already settled by the Lord.
4. Are you submitting to our leaders or carping (finding fault in a disagreeable way) and resisting?

V. **We Should Try To Make Their Work A Joy.**

1. Again Hebrews 13:17 They watch out or are alert for our souls and will give an account, reckoning.
2. We should make this a joy for them and not grief (a sigh or groan because of undesirable circumstances).
3. The grievous result would not profit a congregation in any way.
4. Point: When the Elders think of us as individuals, is there joy or sighing concerning our spiritual welfare?

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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