



Week 3: Honouring Spiritual Leaders January 18/19, 2014

"... honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work..." (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

1. *The Danger Spiritual Leadership Faces*

Becoming a Diminisher instead of an Equipper

- Know-it-all
- Tyrant
- Decision maker
- Micro-manage
- Empire builder

2. *What Members can do to Minimize the Danger.*

"Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other."
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NLT)

What Spiritual Leaders Need

- Honour and respect for their spiritual guidance.
- Whole-heartedly love them because of their work
- Get along with each other

3. *The key to honouring, respecting and loving Spiritual Leadership*

"Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us."

(1 Thessalonians 5:25 NLT)

PRAY

The Third Pledge

I am a supportive church member.

I will pray for my pastor(s) and the spiritual leadership of my church every day. They are the ones who keep watch over my soul and therefore I will honour their position. As they lead my church in a trustworthy way, I will join them, support them, imitate their faith, and most of all love them as we, together, accomplish God's mission.

"Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit."
(Hebrews 13:17 NLT)

Sign & Date: _____



Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Using 1 Thess 5:12-13, explain why the role of the spiritual leader is worthy of honour by church members.
 2. 1 Thess 5:13 says church members ought to “whole-heartedly love” their leaders. The word ‘whole-hearted’ could be literally translated as “super-abundant” and has been defined as “the highest form of comparison imaginable” (cf., BDAG, s.v. ὑπερεκπερισσοῦ). What are some things you could do that would express a “super-abundant love” for your spiritual leadership? What are some things you should not do?
 3. 1 Timothy 3:7 says the devil sets traps for spiritual leaders. How can you help your spiritual leaders to be strong in the face of trials and temptations?
 4. Read Mark 9:50. How is ‘saltiness’ expressed practically in this verse? How is expressing your faith in Christ in this way helpful to your spiritual leadership?
 5. In 1Thess 5:12-13 and in Hebrews 13:17, there is a focus on the work of spiritual leaders. How can a respect and honour of the ‘work’ help you to honour and respect spiritual leaders? Why is this especially important in light of the fact that there are no perfect pastors or church members?
 6. Find some key passages in the Bible where intercessory prayer takes place (someone praying for someone else). Relate those passages to praying for your pastors and other spiritual leaders in the church.
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