



“Joyful Leaders – Joyful Churches”

Hebrews 13:7-8, 17-19

Sunday 12/13/2009

➔ **Introduction...** It isn't unusual to find people who have given up on Christianity because of the abuse of leaders in churches. The original readers of the book of Hebrews were not immune to bad leadership. The writer of Hebrews in his last words turns their and our attention to the leadership of the church. He wants us to look to our pastors/elders for spiritual leadership especially in difficult times.

➔ **Open it...**

1. What would you like say in a last message or video addressed to your loved ones?
2. What comes to your mind when you think of church authority?

➔ **Explore it... Read Hebrews 13:7-8, 17-19**

1. Hebrews 13:7 says that we should remember our leaders. What do you think this means?
2. Read 1 Tim 3:1-7. Describe some of the characteristics of a church leader.
3. What qualities of our church's leaders do you think about the most and want to imitate?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. When we listen to our leaders when they are teaching, how should we view their words?
5. What should you do if you hear one of our leaders speaking words or living in ways that are contrary to what you believe the Bible is teaching?
6. Does Matt 18:15-17 apply in this situation? Does 1 Tim 5:19-20 change your thoughts about this, and if so, how?

7. Describe what you believe it means to submit to the authority of your church leaders (Heb 13:7).

8. What are some of the areas where you see our leaders watching over us? How are they doing it?

9. What can we do that will lessen the burden on our leaders and make their job a joy (Heb 13:17)?

10. What are some of the ways we can pray for our leaders?

➔ **Apply it...**As you think back on this passage – answer these questions personally with I, me and my...

1. What are some things you can personally do to encourage and help our leaders?

2. What can you do to prepare for Sundays or any other time when you are under the teaching of one of our leaders?

➔ **Pray it...**

Pray for our leaders – remember that they are human and face the same trials as we do.