



●The writer of Hebrews addresses the issue of how to respond to spiritual authority. There are four action verbs that tell us what God wants us to do:

I. Remember Your Leaders. Hebrews 13:7a

■The **fact** of authority in the church.

Titus 2:14-15; 3 John 1:9; Jude 1:8

■Remember implies **appreciation** and **honor**.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

II. Imitate Their Faith. Hebrews 13:7b

■Follow them.

■How is real faith manifested? Hebrews 13:15-16

- ◇ Worship represents our **passion** and **heart** for the Lord.

- ◇ Our work showing that we live out our **faith** in **obedience** and in **practical** ways to serve others.

III. Obey Your Leaders. Hebrews 13:17a

■The "O" word.

- ◇ The word translated "obey" is not **blind** obedience but rather obedience after **thoughtful** consideration.

■This does not mean that pastors can be **dictators**.

1 Peter 5:2-3

- ◇ The church was not meant to be a **democracy** where the majority rules—it is a **theocracy** in which God rules through appointed spiritual leaders.

IV. Submit To Your Leaders. Hebrews 13:17b

■The "S" word

- ◇ Submission means to bring myself under the authority of the **mission**.
- ◇ The broader mission of this church which is helping people **find** and **follow** Jesus Christ.

■Why is submitting to spiritual authority a **good** thing?

- ◇ They watch out for your **souls**.
- ◇ They will give an **account**.
- ◇ They should do so with **joy**.
- ◇ Not to do so is **harmful**.