



February 28, 2021
Pastor Dave Mitchell

A Growing Healthy Church Hebrews 13:17-19

Where members and leaders work together supportively for Jesus Christ

The problem: Lack of healthy growth.

- Hebrews 5:12 *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers..."*
- Hebrews 6:1 *"let us press on to maturity..."*

Member's responsibility for a healthy growing church:

Hebrews 13:17 – *"Obey and submit to your leaders... so they serve with joy, not grief."*

- **Members will obey:** What does it mean to "obey?"

Members have confidence in leaders that communicate a persuasive message because of a trusting relationship.

Obey - πείθω / peithō: to listen to, win over, persuade. Not obedience to authoritarian rule but the result of persuasion. To have confidence in the leaders.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 *"But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate (know) those who diligently labor among you."*

- **Members do not cause grief:** What is "grief?"

Grief - στενάζω / stenazō: a sigh, to groan

What causes grief for leaders: James 5:9

- Divisive issues not related to the mission of the church.
1 Timothy 1:4-6; 2 Timothy 2:16-17 - myths, speculation, fruitless discussion, worldly and empty chatter
- Damaging attitudes:
Ephesians 4:25-31 - Not speaking the truth with love, Anger, A bitter spirit

What causes joy:

- Ephesians 4:29 - Words that extend grace to each other.
- Ephesians 4:32 - A kind, tenderhearted forgiving spirit.

Leader's responsibility for a healthy growing church:

Hebrews 13:17, 18 – *"keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account and have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things."*

- Leaders' primary responsibility is the spiritual well-being of each "soul."
- Lead by "proving to be an example" and conduct yourselves "honorably in all things." 1 Peter 5:1-4
- Lead by praying for the spiritual needs of the church. 1 Timothy 2:8
- Lead by pursuing Christ and being nourished in biblical truth and sound doctrine. 1 Timothy 4:6
- Lead by exhorting members from the Bible, not personal opinions. 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:15-26
- Lead by raising up more leaders. 2 Timothy 2:2

Therefore, Members, pray for your leaders for they must "give an account."

Hebrews 13:18 – *"Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things."*

DIGGING DEEPER HEBREWS 13:17-19

1 Preparation If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. *"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."*

2 Read the Text: Read *Hebrews 13:17-19* a few times until you have a clear understanding of the passage.

3 Contemplate + Journal Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, who are spiritual leaders in my life? Do I truly listen and trust what they say? What does this look like for me?"
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, what would it look like for me to live honorably in everything I do? In my work, relationships, school, free time, etc."
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

4 Praise + Worship Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time. **Song Recommendation:** ["Lead Me To The Rock" by David Baloché](#)

5 Closing Prayer Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart.

6 Blessing *"May the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful".* **Colossians 3:15**

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting **"Card"** to **970-00**

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CONNECT.GROW.REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org