

June 7, 2009

*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Hebrews 13:17

**“Loving Your Leaders”**

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His **PERSON** 1-7
- II. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His **WORK** (8:1-10:18)
- III. Christianity: An Infinitely Better **WALK OF FAITH** 10:19-13:24
  - A. The **Confidence** of Faith (10:19-39)
  - B. The **Examples** of Faith (11) – **FAITH**
  - C. The **Race** of Faith (12) – **HOPE**
  - D. The **Out-Workings** of Faith (13) – **LOVE**
    - 1. **Persevering Love in the Social Realm (13:1-6)**
    - 2. **Persevering Love in the Religious Realm (13:7-17)**
      - a. **Savior’s Cross – v. 7-14**
      - b. **Sacrifice – v. 15-16**
      - c. **S\_\_\_\_\_ – v. 17**

### Discussion Questions:

1. What connection does Hebrews 13:17 have with v. 7 and v. 24? Why the emphasis on leaders? What is the importance of leaders to a local church?
2. What is the difference between “obey” and “submit”? Why does the author of Hebrews use both terms? What does our culture typically say about those two concepts? Why would they be important in a local church?
3. What other areas of life does God ordain that we are to be obedient/submissive to authority? Why is this so important to God? What does this tell us about God’s nature & attributes?
4. Are there any times when a believer would be right in refusing to obey/submit to a church leader?
5. If leaders are that important to a local church what are the requirements for those who would aspire to leadership? See 1 Tim. 3; Titus 3; 1 Pet. 5. What warning does Paul give to Timothy re: selecting the wrong people as elders (see 1 Tim. 5:22-25)?
6. One of the favorite meals people have on Sunday afternoon is “roast pastor” (where they criticize the pastor for his shortcomings, rate his sermon, etc.). What is wrong with this kind of diet? What negative impact will this behavior have on a person’s spiritual life and on the life of a local church? What does 1 Tim. 5:19-21 say about the proper way to address concerns one has with an elder/pastor?
7. What responsibility do the leaders of the church have before God according to Heb. 13:17? How is this different from many local churches where the “leaders” are simply “decision-makers”? What are some ways the members of the church could make the leaders’ job very difficult (grief/groaning)? What are some ways the members of the church could make this easier for the leaders (joy)? What does 1 Thess. 5:12-13 add to your answer?
8. Read 2 Cor. 11:23-29. What was more difficult for the Apostle Paul, physical sufferings or concern for the local churches? (See 1 Corinthians and all the problems of that local church to see why he was so gravely concerned) Do you share that attitude with him? Is the health of the local church of vital concern to you? If not, why not?
9. Do you KNOW the leaders of this church? Are you praying for them regularly? Are you encouraging them in their important role in the church? What could you do this week to let them know how much you appreciate their sacrificial leadership?