

Hebrews 13:17-19

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We ought to submit to those in leadership over us.

Earlier in this chapter, Paul asked his readers to remember those who had led them and to imitate their faith. Now he asks them to *obey* their current *leaders*. His readers were facing trials and temptations to leave their faith behind, but Paul asks them to obey their leaders and *submit to them* so that they remain faithful.

Those who were leading them were charged by God to *keep watch over* them and help them remain faithful, and must *give an account* of their leadership to God. These believers could make the job given to their leaders much more difficult, which would not be profitable for anyone.

Paul requests that these believers pray for him as he has conducted himself with a *good conscience*. He has lived a life of faithfulness in service to God and hopes they will recognize that he, like their leaders, desires to *conduct* himself *honorably* and is trying to help them remain faithful. He wants them to pray so he may see them soon, implying that he already knew this group of believers. Paul's point is that he, and their leaders, are trying to obey God and remain faithful, and his audience should remain faithful and pray for them.

Biblical Text:

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. ¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. ¹⁹ And I urge *you* all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.