

LEADER OF THE FLOCK
By: Dr. Hal Webb

“Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth,” Gal. 4:15- 16.

Every army needs a leader who leads the troops in victorious conquests. Without a general to control and lead the troops, confusion results and the battle is lost. When the Lord established His church, in each location, He gave it a pastor. Each church must appreciate and follow the pastor which God has given. Let’s see what the Bible says about **How To Treat Our Pastor**. First, we are instructed to **Love Him**. *“We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you; to esteem them very highly in love, for their works sake,”* I Thess. 5:12 & 13. We need to demonstrate our love in every possible way. Great change will be on his family as they move to a new spot of leadership. Show it every way you can and teach your children to do the same. Make him your families most special friend and express your love and appreciation often. As a human he will be encouraged and challenged to greater levels of service in the ministry.

The Bible next commands you to **Obey him**. Every group must have a leader to direct its activities and lead in the path of Godly obedience. Heb. 13:17 commands, *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”* The pastor is your leader, your boss in the spiritual realm and

your advisor in life. Your family needs the leadership of a well chosen man of God. He is “over” you as leader of your life and director of the things of the church. Like the father of your family he is accountable to lead and for you to follow. He must answer to God and you must answer to him as your pastor. Next, the Bible commands the members of the church to **Respect him**. Notice again the phrase in I Thess. 5:12 which says, *“esteem him very highly in love.”* Men of God should be held in high esteem. Speaking against them to others is not pleasing to God. Your pastor is your commander in chief. You must not slander him, drag your feet and demand your own way. Think of the effect on your children when they hear you talk in critical, angry tones with little respect for the man God gave us. Lift you pastor in your words and manner and the church will grow in effectiveness and reputation. Let me also point out you are to **Trust Him**. The word “submit” in Heb. 13:17 is very clear to understand. Every Christian needs accountability to someone and we are commanded to *“be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”* Phil. 2:2. Again, in I Cor. 1:10 God says , *“that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* Not only the pulpit but in the realm of counseling, your pastor is a valuable and necessary tool of God. Don’t doubt his sincerity, leadership nor practical advice. Do not reject and criticize his sermons. Trust him and rely on his counsel and wisdom to help you walk with God. This leads me to urge you to **Listen to him**. Prov. 13:10 urges, *“Only by pride cometh contention, but with the well advised is wisdom.”* The more you understand of the Word of God, the better. Be sure to attend every service of your church. Bring your Bibles and a notebook and record Biblical thoughts from the sermon. Require your children to pay attention, don’t bring toys for amusement but teach the importance of

listening and learning from the message. Avoid distractions, adopt the truth and accept the rebuke. The advice of the doctor, dentist or mechanic is sought and followed. Give your pastor that same courtesy and learn all you can in spiritual things. Soak up every sermon and apply the truths to build your personal relationship to God. Listen as if the Lord was talking and remember He is, through his man.

How about **Use Him**. The pastors command is to lead and yours is to follow. Be sure to share personal and family problems with him. Jer. 3:15 states, *"I will give you pastors, according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."* With hours of prayer and study, through experience your pastor can give you much help and blessing. God gave him to you as your leader and instructor in spiritual things. Many professional men meet your needs in different ways. Where would you be without a mechanic to keep your car in running order. Your dentist can keep your whole family in happy smiles. Be true to your teeth and they will never be false to you. The lawyer knows about law and the teacher knows how to teach your kids. Your pastor is your spiritual professional. His office is never closed and he waits to be of service to you. Ask him! Lastly be very sure to **Support him**. The Bible lists 5 ways you can do so. First, attendance in all services. I Cor. 15:58 urges, *"Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."* No service in your church is less important and your families attendance in all of them is crucial to the church and to your family. Rearrange your schedule for revival meetings and missionary conference. Don't allow sports or other busy pursuits to cause you to be absent. Please understand, "Any absence from a service of my church is a vote to close it." Then a pastor needs support by generous finances. A hard working pastor is, *"Worthy of double honor,"* I Tim. 5:17. This is quite easy to understand as double pay. Add up the

average pay of the congregation and double it for the man of God that heads our church. Be sure that housing, family needs, insurance, gas to do visitation are all ways to show support to the man of God. Be sure your pastor's burden does not include his finances. Support of the pastor should also **Demonstrate loyalty**. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* Heb. 10:25. Be present in your seat for every service. I want to also urge you to brag on him to his face and others. *"A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth, and a work spoken in due season, how good is it,"* Prov. 15:23. Line up with your pastor like a flying wedge of geese and "Honk" encouragement to him. Share messages and blessings with your friends. They may have a dull, ecumenical pastor who is a bore while yours is exciting. They will get curious and come to hear the one you are so thrilled with and perhaps join you in your church. A good man of God needs to be praised as God's true servant. Lastly be sure to **Pray For Your Pastor**. The Bible urges, *"Brethren, pray for us"* I Thess 5:25. Help hold him up and remember his family as well. Satan knows the best way to wreck a church is to shoot down its pastor. Be sure you bathe him in prayer and your church will grow stronger as you call down God's blessing on its leader.

In closing, I want to say, I consider a great pastor a jewel to be treasured and preserved. Be sure you work closely with him and together build a great church. We are living in the latter days and I believe the church will soon be raptured together into the heavenlies. Whatever happens, do not neglect you church, and the dear man who leads the flock. Pitch in with him and help in some way to develop the testimony of your church, as a loyal child of Jesus Christ. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.