



Persisting Love with Our Leaders

Lesson Fifty-Nine • Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24

23 Commands in Hebrews 13 for Persisting Love to Move Forward to Our Final Salvation!*						
PERSISTING LOVE <i>for One Another!</i> (vv. 1-6)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>with Church Leaders!</i> (vv. 7, cf. 17, 24)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>by the Changeless Christ!</i> (v. 8)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>in Bearing Reproach!</i> (vv. 9-14)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>as Believer Priests!</i> (13:15-17)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>from the Great Shepherd!</i> (13:20-21)	PERSISTING LOVE <i>to Keep Moving Forward!</i> (13:18-19, 22-25)
8 Commands in 4 Pairs Y'all persist in brotherly love and avoid the pitfalls (sexual immorality & material idolatry) with godly motivation!	9 Commands 2 + 0 + 2 + 5 Let us keep going outside the camp to bear the reproach of Jesus as believer priests by imitating past leaders who finished well (v. 7) and obeying present leaders who teach and lead well (v. 17) according to sound doctrine, rather than being carried away by strange doctrines!			NO COMMANDS! Only blessing from God through JESUS Our Lord to equip us to will and work what is pleasing to God!		6 Various Commands Move forward together with conviction in community by God's ordinary means of grace!

*15 explicit commands plus 8 implicit ones due to grammatical structure.

Persisting Love with Church Leaders

1. The **VALIDITY** of Church Leaders. (13:7, 17, 24)

- Human pastoral leadership is not **INCONSISTENT** with the priesthood and kingship/headship of Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:12
- Human pastoral leadership must be **QUALIFIED** by Christlike maturity to be valid.
 1. Church leaders are *appointed* in every church planted. Acts 14:23; cf. Titus 1:5
 2. Church leaders must meet the *qualifications* of an elder/overseer/pastor. 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; cf. 1 Peter 5:1-4
 3. Church leaders and the church members understand *their function*. 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; cf. Acts 20:17-18, 28-32

2. The **AUTHORITY** of Church Leaders. (13:17)

What Kind of Authority?

- Not exercising **ULTIMATE** authority over anyone in the church.
- Exercising **DELEGATED** authority under God and by the church to qualified men for teaching and leading the congregation.

3. The **COMPLEMENTARITY** of Church Leaders. (1 Timothy 2:11-12; 3:1-13)

Complementarians: Believe that men and women are *equal in value* but have *different and complementary roles* in the home and the church.

Egalitarians: Believe that *full equality* entails the *removal of any gender-based role distinctions* in the home or in the church.

- A woman is **NOT** to fulfill the function of teaching or exercising authority over a man in the gathered congregation. 1 Timothy 2:11-12

- Only qualified **MEN** are to fulfill that function and set apart for the office of a pastor. 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Complementarity reflects God's original design for male and female **BEFORE** *the Fall* and it is **RESTORED** in Christ for all those who trust and submit to Him!

- All enjoy the **PRIVILEGE** of being believer priests, but some are set apart as pastor-teachers.

4. The **RESPONSIBILITY** of Church Leaders. (13:7, 17)

Shepherd's Responsibility: To *feed, lead, intercede, breed, and heed the needs* of the flock!

Church Leadership Responsibility:

- To **SPEAK** God's Word to His people. (v. 7)
- To **LIVE** a life of faith in God and His word that is worthy of being imitated. (v. 7)
- To **LEAD** with godly authority. (v. 17)
- To **OVERSEE** God's flock and God's family. (v. 17)
- To **PERSEVERE** in this work when it's easy and when it's hard, when it's a joy and when it's a burden! (v. 17)

Church Membership Responsibility:

- To **PRAYERFULLY REFLECT** on past leaders and the outcome of their lives in finishing faithful. (v. 7)
- To **STAY FIXATED** on Jesus Christ who never changes and God who never fails. (vv. 5b-6, 8)
- To **CONFIDENTLY TRUST** in our leaders based on everything they've taught you. (v. 17)
- To **VOLUNTARILY SUBMIT** to their God-given, church-delegated authority.
- To **PERSONALLY COMMIT** to doing all you can to make leading, feeding, and overseeing you and our church a joy.

5. The **CONTINUITY** of Church Leaders. (13:7, 17)

6. The **ACCOUNTABILITY** of Church Leaders. (13:17; James 3:1; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; 1 Peter 5:1; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

7. The **NECESSITY** of Church Leaders.

Leaders in the church are not a necessary evil but a necessary **GOOD** from the Father that the Great Shepherd uses to move us forward to our final salvation and His coming Kingdom! Persist in loving them as they *feed, lead, intercede, breed, and heed our needs* as a local church.

Persist in loving your pastor-teachers as they lead us forward with sound doctrine and sound living toward our unchanging, eternal Priest-King who speaks through them according to the Bible.

Say It Together with Confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."