

MACARTHUR: *It is crucial that the relationship between a pastor and his flock be healthy. If the shepherds and the sheep do not fulfill their proper spiritual responsibilities to each other, the church cannot be what God intends it to be.*

*1 Thes 5:12 - But we request of you, brethren...*

TWO RELATIONSHIPS that church members need to be concerned about:

**I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS**

*12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate  
THOSE...*

*Acts 14:23 - ...they had appointed elders for them in every church...*

# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

*12...that you appreciate* (the leadership)

*John 4:22 - You worship what you do not **know**; we worship what we **know**...*

*Phil 4:12 - I **know** how to get along with humble means, and I also **know** how to live in prosperity...*

# **I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS**

## ***A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE***

# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

– Their Diligent Work

*12...who diligently labor...*



*1 Cor 3:8 - Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own **labor**.*

*Col 1:29 - For this purpose also I **labor**, striving according to His power...*

*1 Tim 5:17 - The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who **work hard** at preaching and teaching.*

*Heb 13:17 – ministers **keep watch** over the souls of the flock.*

JOHN STOTT: *Whether it is study and the preparation of sermons, or visiting the sick and counselling the disturbed, or instructing people for baptism and marriage, or being diligent in intercession – these things demand that we ‘toil, striving with all the energy which Christ mightily inspires within’ us (Col 1:29).*

# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

– Their Diligent Work

*12...who diligently labor AMONG YOU...*

# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule

*12...and have charge over you...*

*1 Tim 3:4, 12 - 4 He must be one who **manages** his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity...12 Deacons must be... good **managers** of their children and their own households.*

*1 Tim 5:17 - The elders who **rule well** are to be considered worthy of double honor...*

# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule

*12...and have charge over you IN THE LORD*

*1 Thes 4:1 - ... we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus...*

*2 Thes 3:12 - ... we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ...*

*Matt 20:26–27 - 26 ...whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave...*

*1 Pet 5:2–3 - 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*



# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule
- Their Biblical Guidance

*12...and give you instruction...*

*Acts 20:31 - ...night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.*

*1 Cor 4:14 - I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.*

*Eph 6:4 - Fathers ... bring (your children) up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

*Col 1:28 - We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom...*

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# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule
- Their Biblical Guidance

## *B. RESPECT THEIR ROLE*

*13 and that you esteem them...*

*2 Cor 9:5 - So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you...*

*Phil 2:25 - ...I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus...*

*Phil 3:8 - ... I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...*

*2 Pet 1:13 - I consider it right ... to stir you up by way of reminder...*

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## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule
- Their Biblical Guidance

## *B. RESPECT THEIR ROLE*

*13 and that you esteem them VERY HIGHLY IN LOVE*

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## *A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

- Their Diligent Work
- Their Loving Rule
- Their Biblical Guidance

## *B. RESPECT THEIR ROLE*

*13 and that you esteem them very highly in love  
BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK.*

*1 Tim 3:1 - ... if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.*



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# I. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CHOSEN LEADERS

*A. RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE*

*B. RESPECT THEIR ROLE*

# II. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO FELLOW BELIEVERS

*13...Live in peace...*

*Mark 9:50 - ... be at peace with one another.*

*Rom 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at **peace** with all men.*

*Rom 14:17, 19 - 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit.  
... 19 So then we pursue the things which make for **peace** and the building up of one another.*

*Eph 4:3 - being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*Heb 12:14 - Pursue **peace** with all men...*

*Gal 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...*

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# **II. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO FELLOW BELIEVERS**

*13...Live in peace with one another.*

*Robert Thomas: Anarchy is always wrong, particularly among Christians.*

# **What is normal for Christians?**

**#1 - Church Membership Is the Norm**

**#2 - Submission to Elders Is the Norm**

**#3 - Patience with Leadership Is the Norm**

**#4 - Balance Is the Norm**

**#5 - Guarding Our Speech Is the Norm**