

TEXT SUMMARY

1 Varca 7.

In our text, <u>Hebrews 13:7, 17-19</u>, the preacher exhorts the readers to respond well to the spiritual leaders of their fellowship.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

Our text includes no less than six specific exhortations concerning how members of the congregation should regard their spiritual leaders. What are those exhortations?

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- 2. Verse 7: _____
- 3. Verse 7: _____
- 4. Verse 17: _____
- 5. Verse 17: _____
- 6. Verse 17: _____

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

What reasons are given for the exhortations in v. 17? (Hint: Both are found in clauses beginning with the explanatory conjunction "for.")

- 1. _____
- 2.

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Our culture is infected with deep suspicion about people in authority, and often this suspicion is not without cause. We have seen for ourselves how our leaders can be, like us, fallible and sometimes downright wicked. And we have our social media feeds stoking the fires of our cynicism, encouraging us to join with others in ridiculing leaders whose decisions we don't agree with.

Against that backdrop, we hear our text encouraging us to imitate the faith of our spiritual leaders, obey them, submit to them, and make their work of overseeing the fellowship a joy rather than merely a burden. Our fellowship enjoys a good relationship between the congregation and their leaders, and our leaders appreciate that relationship and the trust that goes with it.

- 1. What does it mean for us to "remember our leaders," (v. 7)? What is important for us to remember about the men who lead our fellowship (the pastors and elders)?
- 2. One of the occupational hazards of the pastorate is the automatic deference that many people tend to give to spiritual leaders. (This is true not just in Christian fellowships but in religions throughout the world, with priests, rabbis, holy men of all sorts.) The hazard is that people can expect almost supernatural levels of wisdom and godliness from people in positions of spiritual leadership.

How can we "imitate" the faith of our leaders without idolizing men who are, like the rest of us, fallen and prone to evil?