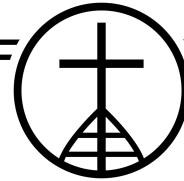


PULPIT CURRICULUM

The Marks of a Good Church: Loving Leadership

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

April 14, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



Prayer & Praise: Praise for the men's retreat, and pray for the Word that was taught over the weekend to bear good and lasting fruit in the discipleship endeavors of each man that attended.

Know Who Your Leaders Are (v.12)

If you grew up in the church, what was your level of familiarity with the pastor and/or the leadership of the church? Did you know the pastor(s) personally? Did you feel like you could know him? Was he accessible? Why or why not?

Why might some people in the church today have an "anti-clerical" attitude? On the opposite end, what happens when a church body goes too far the other direction in putting all the work & expectations on the pastor(s)? What are some of the dangers of holding a pastor in too high of a standing? What about not high enough?

How does v.12 help us to think more biblically (and simply) about what to expect from your church leaders?

Love What Your Leaders Do (v.13)

When you think of loving your shepherds for the work they do, what do you imagine is the hardest part of the job? How might thinking about the nature of their work (going back to v.12) help your love & respect to grow for them?

Why is obedience to the commands to appreciate & esteem vital to the last phrase, *live in peace with one another*? How have you seen a church exist peacefully when these verses were lived out amongst the body of Christ?

Mutual Ministry: How is your relationship with the leadership of HBC? Do you feel like you know the elders? Outside of the elder leadership, are you living in peace with all other members of HBC? Do you need help to reconcile with anyone? (Cf: Rom 12:18: *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*)

Because the doctrine of the Gospel is lovely, it is right that its ministers should be loved.

John Calvin