



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 17: The “Right”-eous Principle

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Read Galatians 6:6 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18. What concept do we see repeated in these passages?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. How does this serve as a balance for the instructions about pastors receiving their living from their work with the church? What attitude do we see that a pastor/elder should lead with? What things might the flock do that would hinder an elder/pastor from serving “willingly”? What issues might the elder/pastor himself have that would prevent him from serving willingly?

**Read Hebrews 13:17. In this list of instructions in chapter 13, we see an instruction for the people regarding how they should interact with their pastors/elders. How serious is the job that these men have? How can we assist them in that role?

As you spend time with God today, consider how you treat the pastors/elders in authority over you. Are you dismissive of them, convinced you know more than they do? Are you filled with more criticism than praise for your pastors/elders?

What is at the root of that attitude? Ask God to help you to submit willingly to the leadership you are under. Ask Him to help you to pray for the leadership over you, for their wisdom and growth, and ask Him to guide their decisions. Remember, these leaders will answer to God one day for how they led; ask God to help you to submit to the leadership as far as is in line with Scripture.

If you find that you are sitting under a leadership that is not sharing the true Gospel, or that is compromising the Gospel and has goals that are not in line with Scripture? Ask God to help you to discern whether this is a church you should remain in, or whether this is a church that is not honoring God and you may need to leave.

Examine everything with Scripture, ladies. If you are concerned about the direction your church leadership is taking you, and you are married, you need to bring your concerns to your husband you need to pray about what to do next, together. Leaving a church should never be done on a whim, but there are times when it is necessary. However, if you do not have Biblical grounds to

leave the church you are in, ask God to help you to be joyful where you are at and ask Him to help you to lift up your leadership in prayer more than you criticize them for secondary matters.

** Over and over in Scripture, we see warnings about false teachers, false teachers arising from within the church, and about having nothing to do with them. We should not submit to anyone without holding up their teaching with Scripture to be sure that they are in line with God's Word. However, if they are godly pastors/elders, we are called to submit to their authority, as God has placed them there and as they will be accountable to God for their care of those placed under them.