

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**  
**RESPECT THE PASTOR OF YOUR CHURCH**  
**IT IS IN THE BIBLE.**

As pastors of churches have a work to do, which is both honourable and useful; so there are duties supposed to be done by those who are under their care, with respect to them, for their work's sake, though they are "nothing," with respect to God, to whom they owe all they have (1 Cor. 3:7).

The various duties which members of churches are under obligation to perform to their respective pastors are found in various passages of scripture. Let us examine a few;

**Responsibility #1: To appreciate them (1 Thess 5:12-13).** The first responsibility of the church members to their leaders is to "know" them. The word means "to appreciate or respect." The Thessalonians believers were to appreciate those that diligently labored among them, thanking the Lord for their willingness to expend themselves physically and mentally for the benefit of the flock. There is a certain God-given authority that leaders have in order to preside over, to lead, to direct, to protect, and to care for God's flock. This is not a picture of tyranny, but rather servant leadership. Leaders are those who give *instruction*; they admonish, warn, or correct those in error. For this faithful soul-care they should be appreciated.

**Responsibility #2: To esteem them (1 Thess 5:12-13).** Church members are also responsible to esteem their leaders. The word *esteem* means "to hold in high regard" and "to consider." Believers are to hold leaders in high regard *because of their work*. The ministry is a high and holy work and believers are here exhorted to place proper value on their leaders—esteem them *for their work's sake*. For example, regarding Epaphroditus, the Apostle Paul instructed the Philippian believers to *receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard (Phil 2:29)*.

**Responsibility #3: To obey them (Hebrews 13:17).** The third responsibility is that of obedience. *Obey* means "to be persuaded, or to listen to." It speaks of an obedience that is the result of confidence. It is not speaking of a cultic allegiance to a man simply because of his position, but rather to obedience that stems from confidence in a man's ability to lead in the right direction, for a people not obeying a ruler, is like one which has none; and perhaps even worse." Leaders are accountable to God for how they lead His sheep.

**Responsibility #4: To submit to them (Hebrews 13:17).** Submission and obedience go hand in hand. Full obedience requires submission of the heart. *Submit* means "to yield under or surrender." Believers are called to cheerfully rank themselves under their leaders because of the serious responsibility to watch over souls. The church body is to submit to leadership for their own spiritual welfare. When this takes place, Pastoring is a joy.

**P . T . O.**