Pastors and members serving together: a partnership that pleases God
(Heb 13.7, 17; 10-18-20)

Central Thought: A healthy church is reliant upon a cooperative, biblical, partnership,
between pastors & members

I. Job One for Pastors: Care for the souls whom God has placed them over (17)

A. Leader Duties: Watch over the flock   *they are keeping watch over your souls*

   1. Relationship and intimacy – engaged in the lives of church families

   2. Spiritual responsibility to care for the *souls* of church families (cf. Eph 4.11-14)

B. Leader Accountability: pastors will give an account for their ministry   *as those who will give an account*

   1. Immediate & present accountability to the congregation (Gal 1; 1 Tim 5)

      Character expectations (1 Tim 3 & Titus 1)
      Shepherding expectations (1 Pet 5)
      Local church expectations (job description; bylaws; etc.)

   2. Greater and higher accountability to the Lord   (cf. Jas 3.1; 2 Tim 4.1-2) (also cf. Lk 12.48)

II. Job One for Members: Help the pastors care for your souls in a way that brings them joy (17, 7)

A. Member duties   *obey your leaders & submit to them*   two phrases with one intent

   Obey: conveys the thought of being persuaded from Scripture – it has a positive tone
   Submit: conveys a willing attitude; yielding to the authority of those over you – with genuine respect

   1. Faithful practices

      a. Lean into Scripture (cf. Acts 17.10-12; Rom 12.2)

      b. Learn your gifts and employ them for the good of the church (1 Cor 12.7; 1 Pet 4.10)

   2. Following pastors

      a. Be loyal to your pastors (17a)   *obey your leaders and submit to them*

      b. Love your pastors (17b)   *let them do this with joy and not with groaning*

      c. Lift up your pastors in prayer (18) *pray for [them]*

B. Member attitude

    1. Three Actions: *Remember*   *Consider*   *Imitate*

        Remember   preaching & teaching

        Consider   look closely; study; evaluate

        Imitate   how they practice their faith

    2. Four Attitudes:

        a. Trust (vs 7)

        b. Cooperate (17a)

        c. Encourage (17b)

        d. Pray (18-19)