

## **A New Testament View Of Leadership**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Hebrews 13:1-25

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

(Hebrews 13:7-8, ESV)

### **Introduction**

Is it just coincidence that the 13<sup>th</sup> chapters of the two most complete sets of apostolic instruction to the Jew and Gentile believer—Hebrews and Romans—both present a New Testament view of leadership and authority in the Early Church? In contrast to the Old Testament view, which could be characterized as leadership and authority through selection and seniority, the New Testament view, while also containing an element of selection, on the surface appears to be more of a merit system wherein one’s relationship, resemblance and representation of Christ was more important than genealogy, ethnicity, age or even gender. As we conclude our reading of this Letter to the Hebrews, let’s see what the Word and Spirit of God have to say about this thing called leadership.

### **1. Daily expressions of love and trust. (Hebrews 13:1-6)**

- a) What is this thing called “brotherly love”?
- b) What is the connection between trusting God and loving people?

### **2. A uniquely New Testament perspective on leadership. (Hebrews 13:7-17)**

- a) Disciples, servants and visionaries.
- b) Remember, listen to, imitate and submit to your leaders.

### **3. Jesus Christ, “the great shepherd of the sheep.” (Hebrews 13:18-25)**

- a) The cost of discipleship, leadership and sainthood.
- b) Jesus Christ, “the great shepherd of the sheep.”

### **Conclusion**

While some mistakenly assume certain letters of the New Testament are standalone treatises on leadership, we get a much better view of NT leadership through the relationships of Christ and His apostles, and between the apostles, local churches and their missionary bands. Leadership is not just about gifts and callings—apostle, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers—but about exemplary discipleship and servanthood within authentic spiritual community. Leaders follow Christ and lead others to Christ through their words, works and relationships.

### **For our prayerful discovery, discussion and application:**

- 1) What are your expectations of leadership and how does that compare with the Scriptures?
- 2) What do you think of a “universal call to discipleship” and how does that compare with your life?
- 3) What is the one thing that the Holy Spirit reminding you of or teaching you anew?

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