

WHEN CHURCH LEADERSHIP FRUSTRATES YOU

HEBREWS 13:7-19 (ESV)

I. Doctrine: when you get frustrated with your church's direction, examine what is being _____ and _____.

A. While Jesus and His _____ do not _____, teaching and beliefs sometimes do.

B. After examining the teaching and beliefs of past faithful teachers, congregations are invited to scrutinize _____
_____.

Is present teaching and leadership grounded in...

1. The principles of justification and sanctification by _____ alone?

2. The substitutionary _____ work of Christ?

3. Does their leadership in _____ agree with what they say in _____? And do both risk the reproach of the world?

C. Church members must ask themselves: is my frustration over historical _____, _____ ideas, or perhaps not theological ideas at all?

II. Practice: when you get frustrated with your church's direction, consider _____ respective _____ for church leaders and church members.

A. The simplest and most challenging requirement for church leaders is...

1. To live a life like _____

2. That is worthy of _____ when they are gone.

B. With our limited vantage point and admitted lack of objectivity, we should aim to examine present leaders' practice by these two measures:

1. Do their lives reflect the ethics of Scripture—namely _____ to God and _____ love?

2. Do they _____ to the flock under their care?

C. Regarding God's commands for church members, ask...

1. Am I frustrated because church leaders are challenging my _____ to _____ God?

2. Have I been praying for my leaders not only in their _____, but also in their _____ as my fallen, redeemed brothers?

III. Affections: in moments of conflict and frustration, discern the _____ that seem to _____ the doctrine and practice of all involved.

A. Godly church leaders operate from a deep love of God and the _____ under their _____.

B. Godly church leaders operate from a place of _____, not _____.

C. Godly leaders ought to operate from a place of deep _____, self-_____, and Gospel-mindedness.

D. Regarding your own affections, ask: have I failed to love and _____ my leaders so that their ministry has felt _____?