

Practicing Christianity - II

Hebrews 13:7-19

Introduction: Our author brackets these following thirteen verses with two comments about those who lead these local house churches.

Submission - vs. 7 - Submission is oneness with the authority structures of God.

Precept: God is the only person due our absolute obedience but He calls upon us to have submissive spirits and attitudes to those who share and preach the Word of God.

Consistency - vs. 8 - Consistency is oneness with God's plans for you.

Precept: There is a grand contrast between the changeableness of humanity and the unchangeableness of divinity.

Soundness - vs. 9 - Soundness in doctrine is oneness with God's Word. The heart that is established with grace is the opposite of the heart that is established with law. (Romans 6:14-15)

Precept: The direction of the Church is related to its proximity to the truth. The closer we are to the truth of God's Word, the better we will be in directing our lives towards the will of God. Finally, the victory of the Church is directly related to the obedience of believers.

Worship - vs. 10-14 - Worship is oneness with and adoration of our Creator.

Precept: Worship is never only symbolic just as forgiveness of sin is never only symbolic. (John 6:51-55)

Sacrifice - vs. 15-16 - Sacrifice is oneness with God's call to serve Him and our fellow mankind by offering our things and ourselves for others.

Precept: Praise releases the power of God and frees us from the bondage of emotional turmoil. Sacrifice involves works as well as praise.

Obedience - vs. 17 - Obedience is oneness with God's authority structures.

Precept: God has a task for each part of the Church body. The leaders are to properly lead the flock and the flock is called to submissively follow the man of God.

Conclusion: The love and care of God's people, submission to the authority structures that God has ordained, purity of doctrine and pursuit of truth and sound doctrine summarize this list.

These final verses speak of spiritual authority (Remember and obey your leaders); the most important level of authority. We also read about 'spiritual discernment'. The final instruction is found in verse 18, "Pray for us". The majority of these instructions relate to Church life and how our personal lives impact Church life.