

Followers Must Trust and Obey Their Leaders

Steve Morgan | May 19, 2011 | Blue Sky Church, Seattle, Washington | God's Purpose in Choosing Leaders

1

1 **Steve Morgan:**

2 (00:00)

3 Well, glad that you're here.

4 Open up to Hebrews chapter 13. Hebrews chapter 13. If you're using one of the blue
5 Bibles under our seat in front of you there feel free to use that. It's on page 1010 in that
6 Bible. Hebrews chapter 13, we're finishing up a series of teaching today that's titled
7 "*God's Purpose in Choosing Leaders.*" And we can't hardly finish up this series as we've
8 been talking about leadership without talking about following and following leaders. And
9 so we're going to, today, talk about that issue of "how do you respond to leaders." What
10 does the Bible say about that? How do you know what's right response, what's wrong
11 responses?

12 I told you as we started this series that the Bible has a high view of leadership, and our
13 culture has a low view of leadership. And I just explained it this way, that in the Bible
14 there's a high expectation of leaders and the outcome of their leadership.

15 There's also a high expectation when it comes to character in the Bible; that leaders must
16 have a godly character. And then the last thing is: there's a high trust required from those
17 who are responding to leaders, a high trust in them. In our culture, though it's opposite of
18 that. Everything's low: low expectation of the effective leaders' lives, low character
19 expected, low trust given to leaders. And yet it's not supposed to be that way. God looks
20 at it differently than we do. There should be high view of leadership. I also told you last
21 week that this key point that leadership is not for the leader. And we get this wrong in our
22 head all the time. We think leadership is for us. That, "Oh if I become a leader, I'm
23 finally somebody. It makes me feel important. I feel like, man, I got that promotion. That
24 means I'm really valuable."

25 (02:00)

26 We look at it as if leadership was for us rather than being for those that we're leading.

27 But in the Bible, it's so clear. Leadership is not for the leader. Leadership is always for
28 those being led.

29 It's very important that you think about that properly, when that's the case. When there's
30 godly leaders who have godly character, who are willing to do anything to please Jesus
31 and follow him, that the people really trust: There's great freedom, great freedom in the
32 people being led. Great freedom in the leaders.

33 I mean, you can think about it. Those of you that had just amazing dads, and some of you
34 would say, "Well, my dad wasn't amazing. He tried really hard." And if your dad's here,
35 he was amazing. So just...

36 But if we're honest and if we as dads are honest, we're not always amazing. We try to be.
37 Very few dads intentionally hurt their kids, but the fact is that we have weaknesses and
38 failures.

39 But some of you would say, "I just had an amazing dad," and I meet people that they
40 really did. Now listen, with an amazing dad, did they ever tell you "No?" And you would
41 all say, "absolutely." A good dad would tell their kids "No." Good dad has to tell their
42 kids "No" a lot, right? There's a lot of times of telling them "No," and having to lead in
43 that. A lot of times when it comes to leaders, we have a short term view. We just want to
44 know, "do I get what I want right now for me," instead of having a long term view of the
45 outcome on a person's life, the outcome on your life in response to your leadership.

46 (04:00)

47 And so let's read this text, and we're going to talk more about it. Hebrews 13, we'll start
48 with verse 17. The verses are this little tidbit at the end of the book of Hebrews. It's
49 typical of the letters in the New Testament, where one of the apostles is writing a letter to
50 the churches, giving them clear things to believe, and then clear practices. And it usually
51 ends with a laundry list at the end of the book, the kind of things your mom tells you
52 before you go to college: wash your clothes, eat your food, don't be a slob, study hard, all
53 that stuff. There's this, like, laundry list at the end where they say, "Hey, and don't
54 forget... and don't forget... and don't forget." And so we have these two verses on
55 leadership at the end of Hebrews that are really important for us. Hebrews 13, starting
56 with verse 17. Let's read it.

57
58 "Obey your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls as
59 those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning.
60 For that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us for we are sure that we have a clear
61 conscience desiring to act honorably in all things."

62 Let's take a minute and pray and then we'll work through these. Just couple of verses,
63 applying them to us, making sense out of them. Let's pray together.

64 Father, I thank you for your presence. I thank you that you love your people. I thank you
65 that you were merciful in sending us Jesus, the great leader, the leader above all leaders.
66 The leader to whom every man or woman ought to submit our whole lives. I thank for

67 such kindness in sending him. And Father, I pray, in Jesus' name, that you would rest on
68 each of us today.

69 (06:00)

70 Help us. Change our thinking. Let us see things the way you see them Lord. I pray that
71 your spirit would work in us. I pray that our hearts and our minds would be clear. Places
72 in people's hearts where they've been hurt in the past, where there's been
73 misunderstanding and pain, where leaders have made mistakes: I pray that you would
74 heal those things. Let there be a freedom in your church. And Lord, I pray today that you
75 would be near to us, that we would sense you near. That your love would be upon us. I
76 thank you for what you're doing in this time, and we honor you in the name of Jesus.
77 Amen. Amen.

78
79 Okay, so let's start in these just couple of verses. The first line of verse 17, obey your
80 leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls as those will have
81 to give an account.

82 And just those first couple of words are hard for us. We are so trained to think of the
83 words, “obey” and “submit” as bad words. We're so trained to think that, “No, those
84 aren't good things. Why should I obey somebody? Why should I submit to someone?” It's
85 hard on us because we've been trained that “No, you know, that's not... who is there that I
86 should trust, that I would follow like that. Who is there like that?”

87 And the fact is that if you think of leadership as positional only, that is, once the person
88 has a position, then they're a leader, you won't like these words. If it's just “positional
89 leadership” that is, there's no relationship, there's no love, they're not necessarily
90 trustworthy, they don't have high character, you'll find these words very difficult, and
91 rightly so.

92 (08:00)

93 The truth is, “obey your leaders and submit to them” are bad words *if* the leaders aren't
94 godly.

95 See we have a problem because: we don't trust leaders, we've seen leaders go bad, we've
96 seen leaders mess up. In all of us... Fathers? It's Father's Day, right? Any of you
97 celebrating perfection yet? No, me neither. And all of us leaders make mistakes. There's
98 one leader who doesn't and never has, and it's Jesus.

99 But there is such a thing as godly leaders, ones that are appointed by Jesus, that lead. And
100 you know, in Ephesians four it says it was Him. It was Jesus in the church that appointed
101 leaders. It was Him who put them in place.

102 That's why I told you: high expectation of leaders, high character required, and high trust
103 from the people being led. That's how the Bible looks at it. And if it's like that, "obey
104 your leaders and submit to them" are not bad words at all. They're delight. It's a
105 wonderful thing if it's like that. If they're not self-appointed leaders, if they're God
106 appointed, if they're appointed through other trustworthy, proven leaders, there's a kind of
107 trust that you can give. You can follow leaders like that.

108 (10:00)

109 Let me use a little parallel example in the Bible. When the Bible's talking about families
110 and parents and children, it uses almost identical words to what we've just read about
111 leaders and followers. Listen to this out of Ephesians 6:

112 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother,
113 this is the first command with a promise, that it may go well with you and that you may
114 live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in
115 the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

116 It's a parallel to what we're talking about with leadership. Another place of leadership
117 fathers and leading your families.

118 Understand: kids, you have to obey dad. You have to obey him.

119
120 If dad's a good dad, not a perfect dad, but a good dad... if dad's a godly dad, that is a
121 great privilege and an honor and a joy to do. If dad's not godly, if he acts wrongly to the
122 children, then it's an awful burden. It's a similar thing. It's a parallel example in the
123 scripture where leadership, this is the deal.

124 If you know your leader, if your leader is trustworthy, you can follow them, obey them,
125 submit to them. They're keeping watch over your souls. Those words become delightful
126 then, in that situation. Say, "Wow!" What wouldn't you do to follow leaders like that,
127 huh? Leaders that are appointed by Jesus to keep watch over your souls.

128
129 That's supposed to be Christian leadership. That's the way it ought to be in Jesus' church.
130 If it's position only, it doesn't mean very much.

131 (12:00)

132 I told you as we started, any good leader says “no” to those they're leading. Any good
133 parent says “no” to their kids. Why? Well, kids are idiots sometimes. And they need
134 parents to tell them, help them direct them. Say, “No, you can't do that.”

135 One of my kids wrote me a note this morning for Father's Day. And one of the things that
136 she told me was, she thanked me for being strict and then put in parentheses, “that's a
137 good thing.” We've been having conversations about this lately. She's been talking to me
138 about how strict I am and she's glad. And I think, “Oh, that is good.” Man, when you're
139 strict and your kids are celebrating it, that's a good deal for dad. Leaders tell people “no.”

140 Actually I would go so far to say is, how do you know someone's your leader? Or, if
141 you're a leader, how do you know you are someone else's leader? Well, you know when
142 you tell them, “No.”

143 That's how you know. You know if someone's your leader when your leader tells you,
144 “No, don't do that.”

145 Can you imagine a child who, when dad says “no” to them, they said, “You're not my dad
146 anymore.”

147 Can you imagine? If my kids said that to me, they would hope to live.

148 You know? Because I love them so much. Of course, they're my kids. And thus, I tell
149 them “no.” In true leadership, in godly Christian leadership, to say “obey your leaders
150 and submit to them” are not bad words.

151

152 It's great freedom, it's blessing, it's protection, it's joy, “for they are keeping watch over
153 your souls.”

154 (14:00)

155 You think about it like that. Think about leadership like that. I mean, people always want
156 their leader to do what they want them to do. But you have to understand, a leader has to
157 make decisions for the good of the whole. They have to make decisions for the good of
158 everybody. Leaders in the church are going to answer to Jesus for decisions we make for
159 the good of the whole. That's why leaders cannot set out to please everyone. You'll drive
160 me crazy if I try to please all of you, because everybody wants something different. “Just
161 a little different, of course.” “Just this one time, of course.” Right? And so leaders are to
162 keep watch over the souls of the people. Why?

163 That's what Jesus assigned Christian leaders to do. That's what he asked them to do.
164 Watching over the people, the church.

165 Let me use another parallel image for this from Jesus himself, one that He spoke about
166 this. He talked about himself as the shepherd and us as sheep. I don't know if you're
167 offended by His example or not. Sheep are kind of dumb, but that's the one he used for
168 us. Let me read it. John chapter 10, listen to his description.

169 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a
170 hired hand and not the shepherd who does not own the sheep sees a wolf coming and
171 leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees
172 because he's a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

173 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me just as the Father knows
174 me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep."

175 (16:00)

176 Jesus talking about true leadership: himself and people.

177 He uses this example of he's the good shepherd. And even says, you know, "someone
178 who doesn't care about the sheep," he was probably implying the religious leaders of the
179 day, who cared only about themselves as leaders, what they looked like, how people
180 thought about them. They were leading for them, for themselves, rather than leading for
181 the people being led. He says the hired the hand, they're no good because when the wolf
182 comes, they're not going to fight a wolf. Why? They'll get hurt and they don't love the
183 sheep enough to do so.

184 People in position of leading without true leadership. I told you last week, you know
185 you're not a leader because somebody gives you a position. There is no such thing as that.

186
187 You can have a position of leadership and not be a leader. I told you, "You know if
188 you're a leader if people follow you."

189 You know, turn around and look behind you. Is there anybody behind you and not just
190 there because they're forced to be, but because they want to be? If nobody's behind you,
191 you're not a leader.

192 If nobody cares what you think about things, you're not a leader. You can have position
193 of leadership, and Jesus says, in Christianity, "understand that's like a hired hand. Cares
194 nothing for the sheep, will not protect the sheep." Jesus said, "Not me. I lay down my life
195 for my people." That's what Jesus said. "I'll die for you," and he did, for everyone who
196 would ever put their faith in him.

197 He died in your place.

198 (18:00)

199 I mean, you think about it. You parents, are there any of you here that if your kids were in
200 danger or in harm's way, if your kids had a great threat to their life, would not do
201 anything it took to step in and protect? Are there any of you who wouldn't do that? You'd
202 die for them, wouldn't you? You'd run in front of a car for them, wouldn't you? You
203 would do anything it took that they would have a life that is free and happy, that they
204 would know God, that they would follow God. What wouldn't you do as a parent?

205 Jesus says, "That's what I'm like with my church. I lay down my life. I give my life for
206 you. I bear your sin. I carry it in my own body that you could be forgiven, that you could
207 be reconciled to God." Why wouldn't you follow a leader like that?

208 And then he goes on at the end of the book of John, after he rises from the dead in
209 chapter 21, and he's speaking to the apostles, Peter specifically. Listen to this.

210 "When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do
211 you love me more than these?'"

212 "He said to him, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.'"

213 See, Peter had denied that he even knew him the night that Jesus was arrested before his
214 death. Now Jesus is back. He's risen from the dead, and he's leading these men that he
215 had called to be apostles and leaders. Peter is going to be the lead leader among them.

216 And he says to him, "Do you love me?" Peter answers him, "Yes."

217 He goes on.

218 He said to him a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him,
219 "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

220 (20:00)

221 He said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved
222 because he said to him a third time, "Do you love me?"

223 And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you." Jesus said to
224 him, "Feed my sheep."

225 There's the image again, the parallel image of leadership. "Peter, I know that you love
226 me. I'm asking you over and over. I want you to get this so deep within you. If you love

227 me, as my leader, the one I appoint, you will take care of my people. You'll take care of
228 them. You'll love the people. You'll love what I love. You'll love my church.”

229 That's what he's saying. See, true Christian leaders love the people that they lead. They
230 don't lead for them. They don't lead for honor or esteem or position or a paycheck. They
231 lead for the love of God, for loving Jesus so much, and thus loving his people so much.
232 It's true Christian leadership.

233 I mean, when you say it like that... like, “Wait, could you obey? Could you submit to a
234 leader like that? That loves Jesus so much and, because of their love for him, they're
235 overcome with love for you?”

236 I mean, you think about it like a father who has to leave his family for a period of time
237 and asks a friend to take care of his wife and kids. Watch over them, check in on them,
238 see if they need anything. Can you imagine if the guy comes back, the father comes back,
239 and he finds out his friend has completely ignored his family, done nothing for them,
240 hasn't helped them, hasn't taught them, hasn't seen that they had their needs met, hasn't
241 protected? Can you imagine the heart of the man returning? Why? Why would he be so
242 upset? Because they're his family. He loves them.

243 (22:00)

244 He trusted his friend. That's what Jesus does. He entrusts people with leadership of his
245 kids. When leaders are like that, to obey your leaders, to submit to them, it's a great joy,
246 for they are keeping watch over your souls.

247 See, leaders will have to give an account “as those who will have to give an account.”

248 Christian leaders will have to answer to Jesus for you. That's the deal. I will have to
249 answer to Jesus, the other pastors here, the overseers, will have to answer to Jesus for
250 you. Because he loves you so much.

251 If you follow us and we were wrong, we answer to Jesus. If you don't follow us and we
252 were right, you answer to Jesus. And I like that.

253 Does that make sense? Do you get it? This is Christian leadership. This is what it's
254 supposed to do. That's why I say it's a high view of leadership.

255 Some years ago when I was in my very first church home, my small group leader was
256 taking care of me. I was learning about Christianity. I was growing as a relatively new
257 Christian. And I was a grad student. I was finishing my dissertation. Because I was
258 avoiding writing my dissertation, I planted a garden one summer, and I was growing

259 tomatoes. And I had borrowed tomato cages for them. They're these wire cages that hold
260 tomatoes up off the ground so the the tomatoes don't rot. And Larry had brought them to
261 my house I was renting when I planted the garden. And in the fall I asked to borrow his
262 truck to take them back.

263 (24:00)

264 And he had a brand new truck, like brand new truck. And I was so nervous borrowing
265 that thing. I drove it to my house about a mile away, gripping the steering wheel. I don't
266 want to dent his truck. I can't dent his truck. And so I get to my place, I load the tomato
267 cages up, stack them in the back of the pickup truck, and I drive very slowly back to his
268 house. When I get to his house, I'm driving around behind the house to unload the tomato
269 cages and I drive under a tree, and there's a low hanging branch. And I didn't think about
270 how high the tomato cages were stacked, and the branch catches the top cage and pulls it
271 off. And I hear a chreeeeeeeeeeeeek. The feet of the tomato cage, right up by the cab of
272 the truck, catches the side and scratches all the way down to the tailgate.

273

274 On top of that, when I looked, everywhere the tomato cages had touched the bed of the
275 truck, it had scratched all the paint off all the way down to the metal from the bouncing
276 on the dirt road I drove across to save time. And here I am. I mean, it was a bad scratch
277 all the way through the paint. I just wanted to die. I thought, "I'm going to move to
278 another state. I don't ever have to see my small group leader again. I'm just going to flee
279 for my life." I had all of those thoughts of terror and panic, and then I thought, "I'm an
280 adult man. I have to go tell him, don't I?"

281 And so I go in Larry's house and I told him, "Larry, I scratched your truck." And he goes,
282 "Oh, it's not a big deal". I said, "No, you got to come look."

283 So he comes out to look at the truck and, I am so scared I'm shaking. I'm just thinking
284 he's just going to kill me. I won't live through this.

285

286 He looks at it, put his hands in his pocket, and he looks, and he is just quiet for a minute.
287 And he goes, "Yep, you scratched the truck, didn't you?" I'm like, "I'm so sorry. I
288 scratched your truck."

289 (26:00)

290 And he turns around and looks at me and he says, "Steve, you're more important to me
291 than that truck. I can fix the truck." And it changed my life. See, I never had a leader like
292 that before. A leader that loved me, and that was the motive for his leading, that his
293 leading was for me. That he cared about me more than he cared about his money, more

294 than he cared about his reputation, more than he cared about his own comfort even. It's
295 Christian leadership, guys. That's what Jesus says. I'm the good shepherd. I lay down my
296 life for the sheep. Who wouldn't follow a God like that? Who wouldn't give everything to
297 go after Jesus Christ, one who is like that?

298

299 And even to Peter, he says, "Peter, if you know anything about me, if you love me at all,
300 what you will do is take care of the ones that I love." It's true leadership. It's true
301 leadership, guys.

302 Man... "as those who will give an account,." We'll give an account to Jesus, for those that
303 we lead, we'll answer to Him. Why? Because he loves you so much. He provides
304 leadership for his church because he loves you so much.

305 And then the last part of verse 17 says, "Let them do this." That is watch over your souls.
306 Give their account. "Let them do this with joy and not with groaning. For that would be
307 of no advantage to you."

308 "Leaders with joy" versus "leaders that are groaning." Why? Why would any leader
309 groan?

310 (28:00)

311 Well, I've been leading a church for 16 years now, and I can tell you I've grown a lot.
312 And let me tell you what the number one pain and stress issue and reason for exhaustion
313 is. The number one thing that has hurt me through the years as a Christian leader has been
314 those who are mean, and ornery, and argumentative, and unkind. It's the number one
315 thing. In a church? Oh yeah. In a church, not supposed to be that way.

316 So he speaks to the followers saying, "Listen, this is what's supposed to happen. Let them
317 do this with joy, not with groaning, for it's of no advantage to you."

318

319 I mean, think about it. Your behavior will determine what it's like for your leader.

320 If your leader is godly and trustworthy, follow them.

321 And listen, by the way, just a little free aside, if you don't think the leaders at Blue Sky
322 are trustworthy, for goodness sake, don't follow us, go follow someone who is godly. If
323 you don't think we're trustworthy. Don't follow a leader that's not trustworthy. We're not
324 perfect. I admit that to you all the time. But if we're not, on the whole, trustworthy, don't
325 follow us.

326 Don't follow a leader that doesn't hold to clear biblical teaching, that doesn't hold to the
327 truth of the scripture. Don't follow a leader like that. Find one who does, and follow them
328 with everything. Be a joy to them and not a burden. "It's no advantage to you" is what he
329 says.

330 (30:00)

331 Have you ever seen a parent with a teenager who will not listen?

332 Some of you were those teenagers. I would go as far as saying some of you are those
333 teenagers, but none of our high schoolers here would ever act like that.

334 You ever seen a parent? Seen lots of parents through the years who are having bad
335 trouble with their teenagers. It's awful. Or parents are groaning constantly. It's constantly
336 painful.

337 Let me give you a hint, teenagers: listen. You don't want your parents to secretly pray for
338 you to move out sooner. That's not the goal. The goal is that they would cry when you
339 leave for joy. No, they'll cry for pain, not for joy. You don't want them crying for joy
340 when you leave.

341 But see, that depends on how you respond to them. Do you respond how the scripture
342 tells you to? Or do you just do whatever you want because you think you know best?

343 We have a member here at Blue Sky. Her name's Cabrini. She's a surgeon at Children's
344 Hospital. And you should see Cabrini. If you haven't met Cabrini, you should meet her.
345 She has for the few years she's been a member here, gone around, unbelievably smiling,
346 joyful, serving. Every time you turn around, she's serving someplace else.

347 I think, "How many things do you do, Cabrini?"

348 "I don't know, just whatever I can find."

349 You know, Christmas Eve this past year, my wife was in the nursery at the candlelight
350 service. And Cabrini had one holiday day to have off. She chose Christmas Eve so she
351 could serve in the nursery.

352 (32:00)

353 She dressed up for Christmas Eve and came and held babies of people so joyfully and
354 happily. every place. Her small group leader loves having her in group. She's leaving to
355 do her last residency down in Louisiana. And you know what we're doing? We're crying.

356 It's hard. We don't want to see her go. She is such a delight. She is so wonderful. It's such
357 a delight to have her as a part of this church family.

358 You don't want your leaders to be secretly praying, "God, give them a job in Timbuktu
359 somewhere. Please!"

360 That's not the goal.

361 You know when he says this, when he says that, "let them do this with joy, not with
362 groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you," let me tell you what it means. It's no
363 advantage to you if you're a pain in your leader's butt. Sorry to speak so plainly.

364 It hurts you.

365
366 It's not supposed to be that way.

367 It ought to be that you are such a joy like a child to their parent, an obedient child to their
368 parent. That you're such a joy to your leaders.

369 You're such a help. It shouldn't be that your small group leader is exhausted by you. That
370 you're the one that always complains, not reliable, always takes the discussion off track,
371 always has a hard time doing what we're doing next.

372 I mean, it shouldn't be that way. It's what he's saying. It's of no advantage to you.

373 Do you know there's such a thing as getting what you think you want and having it cause
374 you great harm? Have you ever thought about that? We all want what we want, don't we?
375 I mean, aren't you like that? I want what I want, but do you know there's such a thing as
376 getting what you want and having it cause you harm? It's what it's like. It's of no
377 advantage to people who exhaust their leaders.

378 (34:00)

379 See, guys, in the church when leaders actually lead and followers actually follow, all of
380 us in love with Jesus Christ, all of us obeying Jesus, the church is a delightful place.

381 I don't know how long — some of you are here for the first time today. How long you've
382 been around blue sky, man, I don't know. But listen, I like being a part of this church. We
383 don't have a lot of people complaining and griping and belly aching and causing trouble
384 here. I like that. It's fun to be a part of this.

385 Some of you have been in church experiences where it was just agonizing, ripped your
386 guts out, conflict and fighting and bickering and trouble.

387 It's not supposed to be that way. That's got to cause our leader to groan, Jesus, because he
388 loves his church.

389
390 It's not supposed to be that it's miserable to be a part of a church, or you're protecting
391 yourself constantly because you wonder who's going to gossip or, you know, who's going
392 to fight or, you know — it's practical. I always tell people things like, you know what,
393 we're not going to fight over the color of the walls. I could care less what color the walls
394 are. It doesn't matter. As long as they don't make people vomit during worship, it's fine. I
395 don't care what color you want the walls to be. I could care less what color you think they
396 ought to be. It doesn't matter. Just glad we have walls. We're not going to fight over that
397 stuff. We're Jesus's church.

398 When leaders are leading and followers are following, and all of us are obeying Jesus, the
399 church is a delightful place to be. A family, a community of friends.

400 (36:00)

401 A place where nobody has to say, “Obey your leaders, submit to their authority.” Nobody
402 has to say that.

403 You follow people because you love them. You follow your group leaders because you
404 love them. You follow your DC pastor because you love them.

405 This past week I was working in my office and one of the DC pastors sticks his head in
406 and says, “Hey, so and so's sick,” (one of their small group leaders). “What do I get
407 somebody when they're sick? I don't know what to get them.” I told them, “Ginger ale,
408 chicken soup, and Tylenol. I don't know. Get them something.”

409 And they were going over to their house. They were sick. They had a cold. Why? Oh,
410 guys, true Christian leaders give whatever it takes for his people. That's just a small thing.

411 Like parents who would lay down their lives for their kids, like dads that would do
412 whatever it takes, even if it meant their own life to protect their own. Jesus, who would
413 give up his life for his people, and leaders that he appoints, who would do whatever it
414 takes, to protect and love and train and teach those that belong to Jesus.

415 It's Christian leadership. That's how it's supposed to be. When you see it differently, pray
416 for them. Pray for your leaders. He loves you guys so much. Let's stand up. We're going
417 to pray together.