

## The Umbrella of the Church

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**Heb. 13:7, 17, 24** - "...them that have the rule over you"

**Introduction:** God's plan is that Christ be the Head of every church. Under Christ are God-appointed leaders such as elders, pastors, deacons, and teachers. We are to be subject to God's delegated authorities in the church. The Bible says in **Hebrews 13:17** *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

Those who are in authority in the church are not to lord it over God's people but rather to serve them and to be examples to them. Concerning elders, the Bible says, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." **1 Pet. 5:2-3**.. Here are 3 commandments that refer to the pastor and people:

**1. "Remember them which have the rule over you" (v. 7).**

The pastor is expected to be the spiritual leader of the flock. He is to lead through the Word of God, which is the spiritual food for God's sheep. Believers are to follow the example of their pastor's faith as they point others to Christ.

**2. "Follow Them..." -v. 7**

**3. "Obey them that have the rule over you" (v. 17).**

It is a solemn thing to be entrusted with the watch-care of souls. The pastor must give an account of his ministry to God and if his flock has disobeyed the Word, sorrow will be theirs, not his. We must respect pastoral leadership and submit to the Word of God.

**4. "Submit To Them..." -v. 17**

**5. "Salute all them that have the rule over you" (v. 24).**

The people should be on "speaking terms" with their pastor. It is a sad when Christians get angry and refuse to talk with their pastor. This is disobedience to the Word of God.