

“THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU”

3 Times in Hebrews chapter 13, the Bible refers to “them that have the rule over you”---

“Remember **them which have the rule over you**, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” (Hebrews 13:7)

“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. (Hebrews 13:17)

“Salute all **them that have the rule over you**, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.” (Hebrews 13:24)

From these scriptures, it seems that amongst Christians, there is a person whom God has chosen to "have the rule over" others. From these verses have come the concept of "pastoral authority" and the concept that we should "submit" to those who "rule" within the church. “Submit to authority” is often spoken of in the church, at times from the pulpit, but most often at the back of the church--when someone “gets out of line”

The format of church, which is largely adhered to by most Christian churches, was originated by people who stressed “submission to rule”. Study history! Study the church of the dark ages--as well as the church of King James’ day--the age when the Bible was translated. “Submission to rule” in those days meant following the rule of the king and the church hierarchy--they owned all the land--and the majority of people were peasants.

Can we shut out our church experience, and study the Bible objectively in this area? What is the word of God speaking about when it refers to “them that have the rule over you”??

The problem is that we have not defined these words Biblically. The problem is that we have defined "rule" by the standards of the world and tradition, rather than the standards of the Bible. We have ignored what Jesus spoke about Christian "rule".

The words "rule over" are this one word in the Greek.....study this carefully-!

hegeomai {hayg-eh'-om-ah-ee}

1) to lead 1a) to go before 1b) to be a leader 1b1) to rule, command 1b2) to have authority over 1b3) a prince, of regal power, governor, viceroy, chief, leading as respects influence, controlling in counsel, overseers or leaders of the churches 1b4) used of any kind of leader, chief, commander 1b5) the leader in speech, chief, spokesman 2) to consider, deem, account, think

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