**Hebrews 13:15-17**

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**#1 The New Covenant Community is a Worshipping Community** (v.15-16)

* What does it mean that our worship is “through him” in verse 15?
* Why is right worship of the one true God impossible without faith in Jesus?
* How does the author define our praise to God at the end of verse 15, and what does that look like practically in our daily lives?
* What keeps us from acknowledging his name more in our relationships with family, neighbors, and co-workers?
* How can praise be offered “continually” and why is it important that the author emphasize this?
* Is it selfish of God or unloving of God to command us to worship him like this? Why or why not?
* What is our motivation for doing good and sharing what we have according to verse 16?
* What would be bad motivation for doing good and sharing what we have?

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**#2 The New Covenant Community is a Shepherded Community** (v.17)

* Verse 17 uses the language of “obey” and “submit”. Why are we naturally uncomfortable with this language?
* In what scenarios/ relationships are obedience and submission for our good?
* What does it mean that leaders will have to give an account for the souls they watch over? (See also James 3:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
* How does verse 17 emphasize the importance of formal church membership for both the pastor and the church member?
* The author assumes that leaders in the church are advantageous to you. What advantages come with having pastors that joyfully watch over you?
* What are ways that church members cause their leaders to “groan” rather than “rejoice”?
* The author assumes that the joy of pastors can often be in jeopardy and that they are susceptible to groaning. With this in mind, what kinds of things should we pray for church leaders in local churches?