

Followship

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 11:1

Purpose: To examine God's special plan for followers as they relate to their leaders

The Bible speaks much about followship. In fact, each of the following well-known passages associated with "leadership" is bound to parallel passages on followship, yet there is clearly a different set of instructions regarding "followship". God considers proper followship instruction just as important as proper leadership instruction.

	<u>LEADERS</u>	<u>FOLLOWERS</u>
Elders/Flock	1 Peter 5:1-4	1 Peter 5:5
Leaders/Followers	Hebrews 13:17b	Hebrews 13:17a,c
Husband/Wife	1 Peter 3:7	1 Peter 3:1-6
Husband/Wife	Ephesians 5:25-33a	Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b
Husband/Wife	Colossians 3:19	Colossians 3:18
Parents/Children	Ephesians 6:4	Ephesians 6:1-3
Parents/Children	Colossians 3:21	Colossians 3:20
Masters/Slaves	Ephesians 6:9	Ephesians 6:5-8
Masters/Slaves	Colossians 4:1	Colossians 3:22-25

The many followship passages above and elsewhere are included in Scripture because God wants followers to have a clear understanding of their unique role. For God's work to advance properly, followers must follow according to the Biblical plan. This study examines God's special plan for followers as they relate to their leaders.

1. Which does the Bible teach in regard to the relationship of Christians to their leaders: full submission or qualified cooperation? (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5; Ephesians 5:24; 1 Corinthians 16:16) Explain your answer.
2. Should followers regard leaders as having God-given authority over them? 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 20:28
3. Should the Christian regard as his "leaders" all who are responsible for conducting a meeting or event in which the Christian participates or are his leaders only the elders and preachers of the church?
1 Corinthians 16:16 List everyone who should be considered by the Christian as his leaders.

(Followship Continued)

4. Can one correctly submit to Christ without submitting to Christ's authority as expressed through leaders?
Colossians 3:22-24; Romans 13:1-2
5. By definition, if one agrees with a decision, is he truly "submitting" to it?
If one obeys only those requests with which he agrees, is he really submitting to his leader?
6. Does submission require that the follower not express his disagreements with his leader? Luke 22:42
7. As used in the Bible, does "submission" necessarily mean "obedience"? Heb. 13:17; James 4:7
8. May a follower validly reason that God does not expect him to submit to a leader if the leader is incompetent, inconsistent or un-Christian? 1 Peter 3:1; 1 Peter 2:18-21
9. In how many matters is a follower expected to submit to his leader(s)? Ephesians 5:24; 1 Peter 2:13
10. When is a follower justified in not submitting to his leader(s) Acts 4:19-20; 5:18-19

List any other exceptions
11. Is the reason a follower submits to his leader(s) because of what the leader(s) will do or feel towards the follower if a follower disobeys a request? Romans 13:1-2, 5
12. Is correct motive essential when submitting to a leader, or is the mere act of compliance sometimes enough?
Romans 13:5; Ephesians 6:6-7; Colossians 3:22
13. What unresolved attitudes will prevent one from genuinely submitting to others? 1 Peter 5:5-7

Why does this attitude prevent genuine submission to other people?
14. Based on your study above, what changes does the Lord want you to make in your attitudes towards your leaders?

What changes does He want you to make in your behavior towards leaders?