

OPENING THE WORD

Ponder:

1. What thoughts come to mind when you think of "government?" What are those thoughts like with respect to "church government?"

Discuss:

2. Read Hebrews 13:17. What are the directives given that elders of a local body are responsible for?
3. What are some specific sacrifices our church leaders might make to lead us?
4. Try to put yourself under those commands and responsibilities. What comes to your mind?
5. What are two directives those in the body are responsible for?
6. How easy or hard is this to obey? Why?
7. What sacrifices have you made for your faith?
8. Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. How is this leadership style unique? Does knowing this make it easier or harder to fulfill question 4?
9. Is it reasonable for a local eldership to feed, guard, mature, those entrusted to their care if they don't know you're a member?
- 10.1 Peter 2:5. What perspective does this give you concerning church membership knowing that God has made you an indispensable part of the body?
11. If you are a member, how do you help make people welcomed, challenged in the gospel with the desire to belonging to the body?
12. What do you believe some concerns are for not "member-shiping" with a local body of believers?