

# **Ten Christian responses to Christian leaders**

**(Ten ways to bless your leaders in order that they may bless you!)**

1. **RESPECT YOUR LEADERS** in your heart and mind. Esteem them for their God-given calling. Don't confuse "liking" them as individuals with "respecting" them for their calling and position.
2. **SUBMIT TO YOUR LEADERS** as you submit to your heavenly Master. God doesn't ask you to agree with all they do or ask you to do. But He does ask that you put off a rebellious spirit and clothe yourself with a humble and submissive spirit. With this attitude, we honour the Gospel of Christ.
3. **LOVE YOUR LEADERS** from the heart. You may not naturally "like" your leaders but it is your responsibility to "love" them. In biblical terms, this means both with your words of encouragement, and also with your deeds of love - simple, everyday acts of kindness and thoughtfulness.
4. **ACCEPT YOUR LEADERS** just as they are, with their unique personality, background, nationality, spiritual gifts, abilities et al. Accept also their weaknesses. Remember that they are imperfect just as you are!
5. **FORGIVE YOUR LEADERS** when they sin against you. Bear with their mistakes and poor decisions. As human beings, they are sinful, and so they will inevitably disappoint you. Guard against allowing your leaders' comments or attitudes to offend you or leave you feeling upset and sad. Go to them and speak about any offensive ways or whenever they sin against you.
6. **SUPPORT YOUR LEADERS**, their vision, their decisions and their desires for you as a team-player. Don't expect to always agree with their decisions. However, once a decision has been made, it is your part to stand behind your leader's decision.
7. **DON'T SLANDER YOUR LEADERS**. It is very easy to see the faults of leaders. Because of our pride, we are mostly blind to our own faults. In our blindness, we then easily criticise our leaders and make their mistakes a common point of conversation. This is SIN that will inevitably bring suffering into the team and also God's chastisement upon those who engage in this sin. Make a clear choice not to gossip about your leaders even if other team members do. Speak rather that which builds them up and helps them to grow both in their leadership and in their Christian walk.
8. **RELATE OPENLY WITH YOUR LEADERS**. Don't be afraid of them. Work hard to develop an open, healthy relationship with them. God is sending you to the team/field in order that you together with them can serve well together and please God through your life and your work.
9. **UNDERSTAND YOUR LEADERS**. Understand that they have hidden struggles that they can't easily talk about with others. They will at times be heavy of heart because of heartaches experienced in leading your team/field. Seek in every way possible to help lighten the heavy load of leading your team/field.
10. **PRAY FOR YOUR LEADERS**, not primarily that they will overcome weaknesses, but that they will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that God's name will be increasingly glorified through their leadership.

Graham Roberts

MTS, February 22, 2000