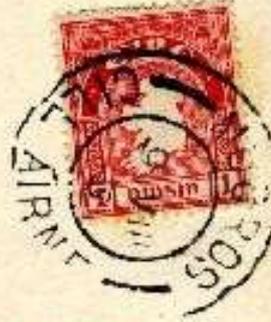


*The Letter to the*  
**Hebrews**



**“4 Words Christ Followers  
Love...and the Culture Hates”  
Hebrews 13:15-21**

## Hebrews 13:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. <sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. <sup>18</sup>Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. <sup>19</sup>I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon. <sup>20</sup>May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup>equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# We Love the Word Sacrifice!

Through Jesus ... our Leader

We offer to God a sacrifice of praise

1. Worship

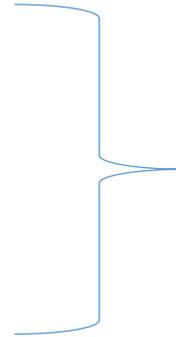
The fruit of Lips that confess His name

2. Witness

# Sacrifice (cont.) 3. Works

Doing Good

Sharing with others



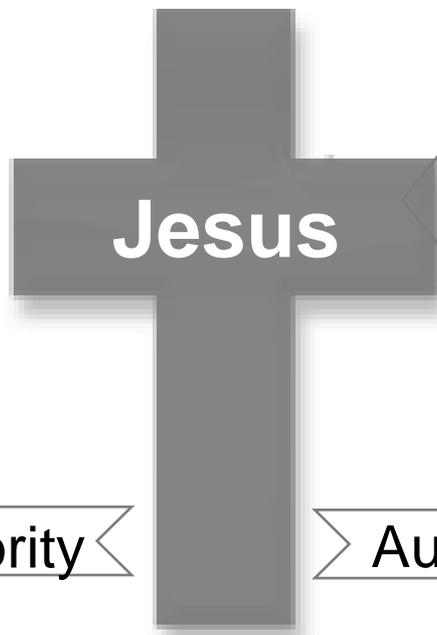
At the level of  
Sacrifice

With such sacrifices God is Pleased!

We Love the Words Obey,  
Submit and Authority



# The way God's Kingdom works



“All authority has  
been given to me...  
Matt 28:18

His Word

II Timothy  
3:16-17



Authority

Authority

His Leaders

Eph. 4

Apostles  
Evangelists  
Teachers

Prophets  
Pastors

His Church

Authority in  
Prayer

Obey

Obey

Why does the Dominant Culture hate  
authority, obedience, submission,  
sacrifice?

Because they have rejected God's  
Leadership!

When you feel you should be your own  
authority – obedience and submission are  
abhorrent.

# The way people think today

“If I agree with you I’ll go along with you. It’s not that I’m “obeying” you or, God-forbid, “submitting” to you...After all we are equals.

# The way people think today

Obeying and Submitting are extreme demands of cult-like leaders. These are dangerous words that invite abuse.

Leaders are supposed to be servants not bosses. Leaders need to be there for me, not me for them.

# The Problem of the Autonomous Self

When each of us insist on deciding for ourselves who can legitimately exercise authority – we are back to Adam and Eve's behavior in the Garden of Eden.

Either God is God and the authority in the universe, or we have stolen His crown and taken His throne.

Have you become a follower of Jesus or  
merely a believer in Jesus?

Have you surrendered the control of your life  
to Jesus or merely received His forgiveness  
and salvation?

Your answer will determine how you treat your Pastors, your Elders and ultimately each other.

At Stake?    Your Leader's Joy  
Your advantage  
(gained by obedience)

The Leader's Request –  
Pray for us!

# The Leader's Prayer

Hebrews 13:20-21

<sup>20</sup>May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup>equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.