



- Respect those who labor among you
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

We ask you, brothers, to **respect** those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to **esteem** them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

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- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (ESV) 12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Romans 13:7

- Romans 13:7 (ESV) 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God.
Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:17

- 1 Peter 2:17 (ESV) 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

Acts 23:5

- Acts 23:5 (ESV) 5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."

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THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

- The Burden of all this people
 - Moses' struggles to lead Israel
 - Israel's struggles to follow Moses and Jehovah.

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

Moses said to Jehovah, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"

Numbers 11:11

- Numbers 11:11-15 (ESV) 11 Moses said to Jehovah, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that you swore to give their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'

Numbers 11:12-13

- Numbers 11:11-15 (ESV) 12 Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that you swore to give their fathers? 13 Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.

Numbers 11:14

- Numbers 11:11-15 (ESV) 14 I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

Numbers 11:15

- Numbers 11:11-15 (ESV) 15 If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

you lay the **burden** of all this people
on me?

Numbers 11:11

I am not able to carry all this people
alone; the **burden is too heavy** for
me.

Numbers 11:14

- 11 - you lay the burden of all this people on me?
 - (TWOT) in its most natural setting refers to the load or burden upon the backs of such animals

THE BURDEN OF ALL THIS PEOPLE

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Numbers 11:11

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Numbers 11:14

- (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary) Massa' means "burden" in the sense of something burdensome, a hardship. Moses asked God: "... Wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?" (Num. 11:11).
- 14 - I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.

AGAINST MOSES

- Against Moses
 - Consider all that we know about Moses
 - Raised up by God for the deliverance of His people
 - Confronted Pharaoh
 - Signs: 10 judgments and crossing Red Sea
- During times of trouble people rose up against Moses again and again.
 - Examine their attitudes, which we are prone to share

AGAINST MOSES

FAILURE TO CARE

What shall we drink?

And the people grumbled against Moses
Exodus 15:24

- Bitter Water
- Exodus 15:23-24 (ESV) 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. 24 And the people **grumbled against Moses**, saying, “What shall we drink?”
- failure to care for the needs of the congregation

AGAINST MOSES

And the whole congregation of the
people of Israel grumbled against Moses
and Aaron in the wilderness

Exodus 16:2

- Bread
- Exodus 16:2-3 (ESV) 2 And the **whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness**, 3 and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had **died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full**, for you have brought us out into this wilderness **to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**”

AGAINST MOSES

“Would that we had died by the hand of Jehovah in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Exodus 16:3

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness

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AGAINST MOSES

THE PAST WAS BETTER

"Would that we had died by the hand of Jehovah in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Exodus 16:3

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness

Exodus 16:2

- The Past was better (idealized past)
 - Unfair comparison
- Resisting change, refusing to trust
- Evil motives

AGAINST MOSES

Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Jehovah?"

Exodus 17:2

- Exodus 17:1-4 (ESV) 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 **Therefore the people quarreled with Moses** and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and **the people grumbled against Moses** and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, **to kill us** and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."
- Evil motives

AGAINST MOSES

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EVIL MOTIVES

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Exodus 17:2

- Evil motives
 - kill us vs. lead us

ASSUMPTION OF SIN

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.

Numbers 12:1

- Numbers 12:1-9 (ESV) 1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.
- assumption of sin
 - Looking for any imagined sin, slight, wrong
 - Any excuse to point hypocrisy
- His own family
- Envy

ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?”

Numbers 12:2

- Numbers 12:1-9 (ESV) 2 And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it.
- Abuse of authority
 - Seeking to be the only authority
 - Preeminence

AGAINST MOSES

QUESTIONED CHARACTER

"Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth."

Numbers 12:3

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Numbers 12:8

- Numbers 12:3 (ESV) Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
- Should have been afraid!!!
- Questioned his character
 - ignored good qualities
 - ignored good done
 - assume evil motives

THE PAST WAS BETTER

And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!"

Numbers 14:2

- Refusing to enter land
- Numbers 14:1-4 (ESV) 1 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

AGAINST MOSES

They assembled themselves together
against Moses and against Aaron and said
to them

Numbers 16:3

- Rebellion
- Numbers 16:2-3: 2 And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men.
3 They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”
- Abuse authority
 - Exalt yourself

AGAINST MOSES

ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

"You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of Jehovah?"

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- Abuse authority
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AGAINST MOSES

“We will not come up. Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us?”

Numbers 16:12-13

And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and they said,

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AGAINST MOSES

ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

EVIL MOTIVES

THE PAST WAS BETTER

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Numbers 16:12-13

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Numbers 16:12

- The past was better: Egypt a land flowing with milk and honey? (slight on Canaan!)
- Evil motives: to kill us in the wilderness
- abuse of authority: make YOURSELF a prince over us
 - Moses hadn't wanted this role, argued with God about it.

And Moses was very angry and said to Jehovah, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them."

Numbers 16:15

- Numbers 16:15: And **Moses was very angry** and said to the Lord, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them."
- 30 But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that **these men have despised the Lord.**"

ABUSE OF POWER

"You have killed the people of Jehovah."
Numbers 16:41

But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of Jehovah." And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron

Numbers 16:41-42

- Numbers 16:41-42: But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord." 42 And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared

AGAINST MOSES

“Would that we had
perished when our brothers
perished before Jehovah!”

Numbers 20:3

And they assembled themselves together
against Moses and against Aaron. And
the people quarreled with Moses and
said

Numbers 20:2-3

- Water
- Numbers 20:2-5 (ESV) 2 Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! 4 Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? 5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.”

AGAINST MOSES

EVIL MOTIVES

THE PAST WAS BETTER

“Would that we had
perished when our brothers
perished before Jehovah!”

Numbers 20:3

And they assembled themselves together
against Moses and against Aaron. And
the people quarreled with Moses and
said

Numbers 20:2-3

- Past was better
 - Even dying in the wilderness
- Evil motives: die

AGAINST MOSES

EVIL MOTIVES

THE PAST WAS BETTER

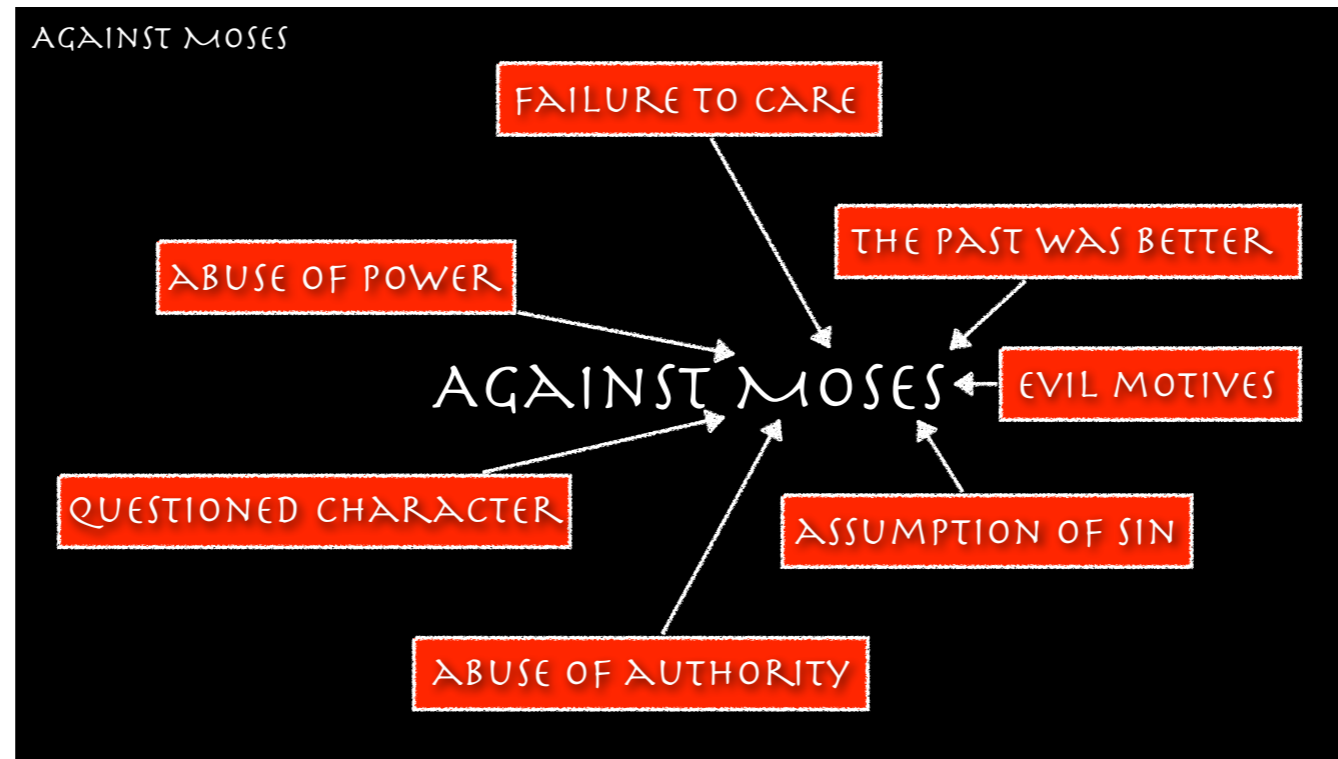
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Numbers 20:3

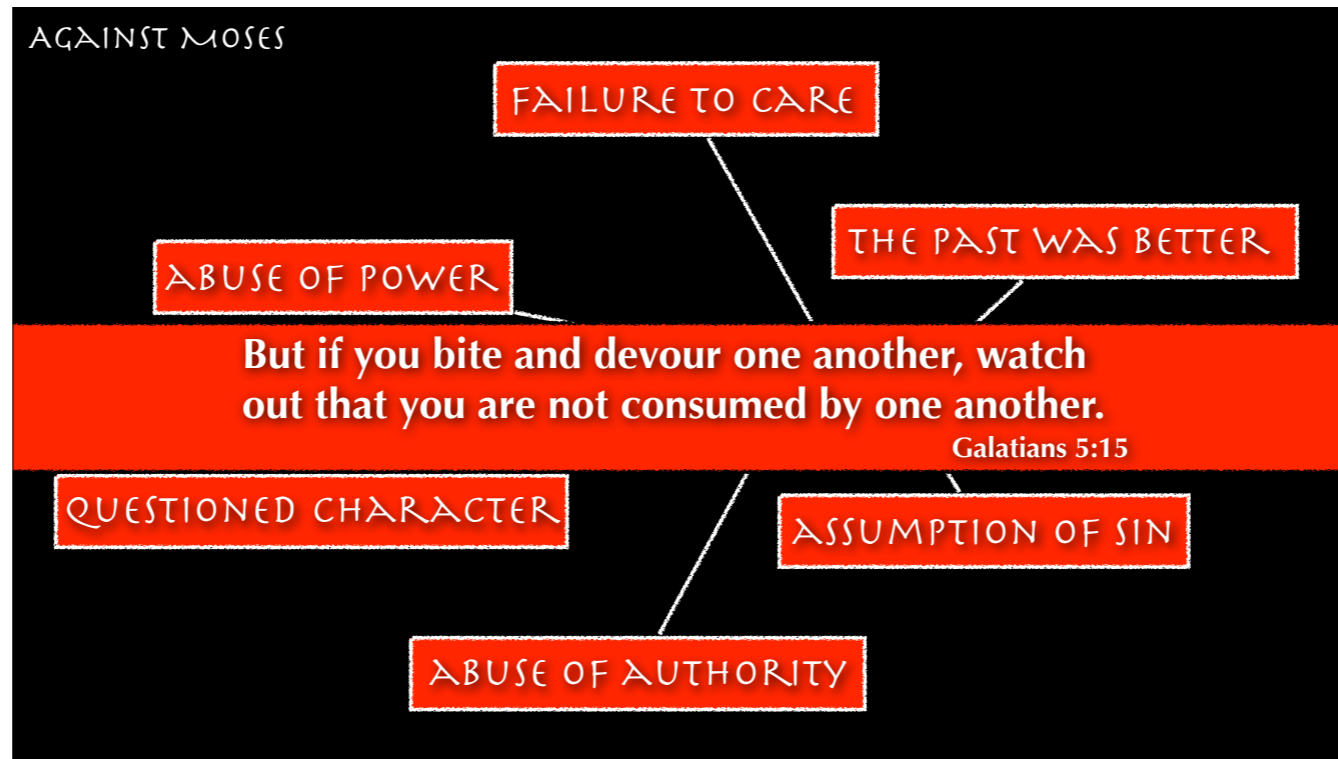
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Numbers 20:2-3

- Numbers 20:10-13 (ESV) 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, **“Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?”** 11 **And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice**, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. 12 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” 13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy.



- Summary of accusations against Moses
 - failed to care for the congregation
 - the past was better (change) (unfair comparisons)
 - evil motives
 - assumption of sin
 - abuse of authority
 - questioning character: ignoring good
 - destruction
 - abuse of power



- Galatians 5:13-15 (ESV) 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 **But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**

RESPECT & ESTEEM

- Respect and Esteem

RESPECT & ESTEEM

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RESPECT & ESTEEM

to have regard for one,
cherish, pay attention to
Thayer

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1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- Thayer: to have regard for one, cherish, pay attention to
- 1 Corinthians 16:17-18: Give recognition to such people.
- KJV: “know” -
 - consider **who** they are: character, behavior, example
 - consider **role** they have: elders, shepherds

RESPECT & ESTEEM

to have regard for one,
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1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- 1 Timothy 5:19-21 (ESV) 19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. 21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

RESPECT & ESTEEM

consider, deem,
account, think
Thayer

to have regard for one,
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Thayer

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1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- Thayer: consider, deem, account, think
- very highly — exceedingly abundantly
- IN LOVE: esp. when times are difficult (arguing, trials, hurt, division), love keeps us focused on God, accomplishing His will, not giving in to pettiness, quarrelsomeness, bitter thoughts, harshness, assumptions.

RESPECT & ESTEEM

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1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- because of their work:
 - Lenski: The Thessalonians are not asked to esteem these men because of the high office for which they have been chosen. It is because of **what they do** for the Thessalonians that they are to be considered.

RESPECT & ESTEEM

consider, deem,
account, think
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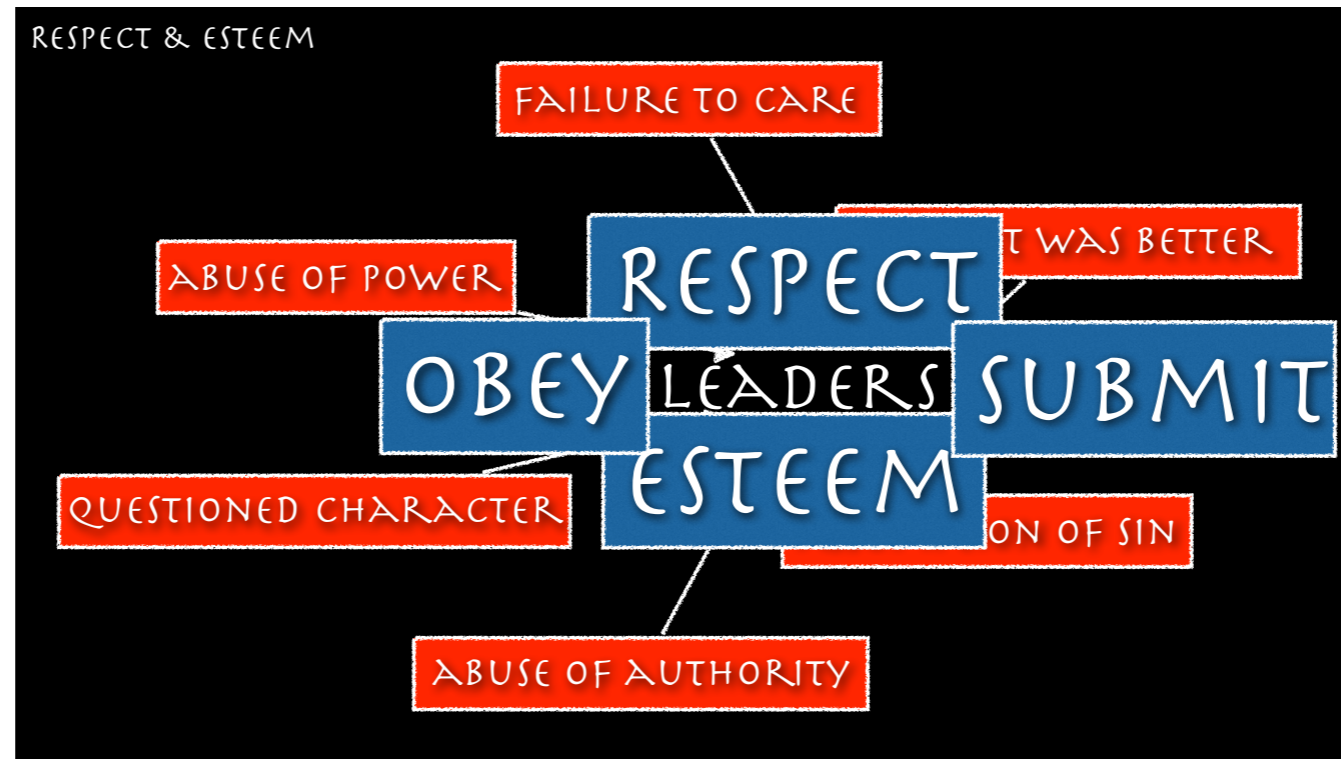
- 1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV): Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

RESPECT & ESTEEM

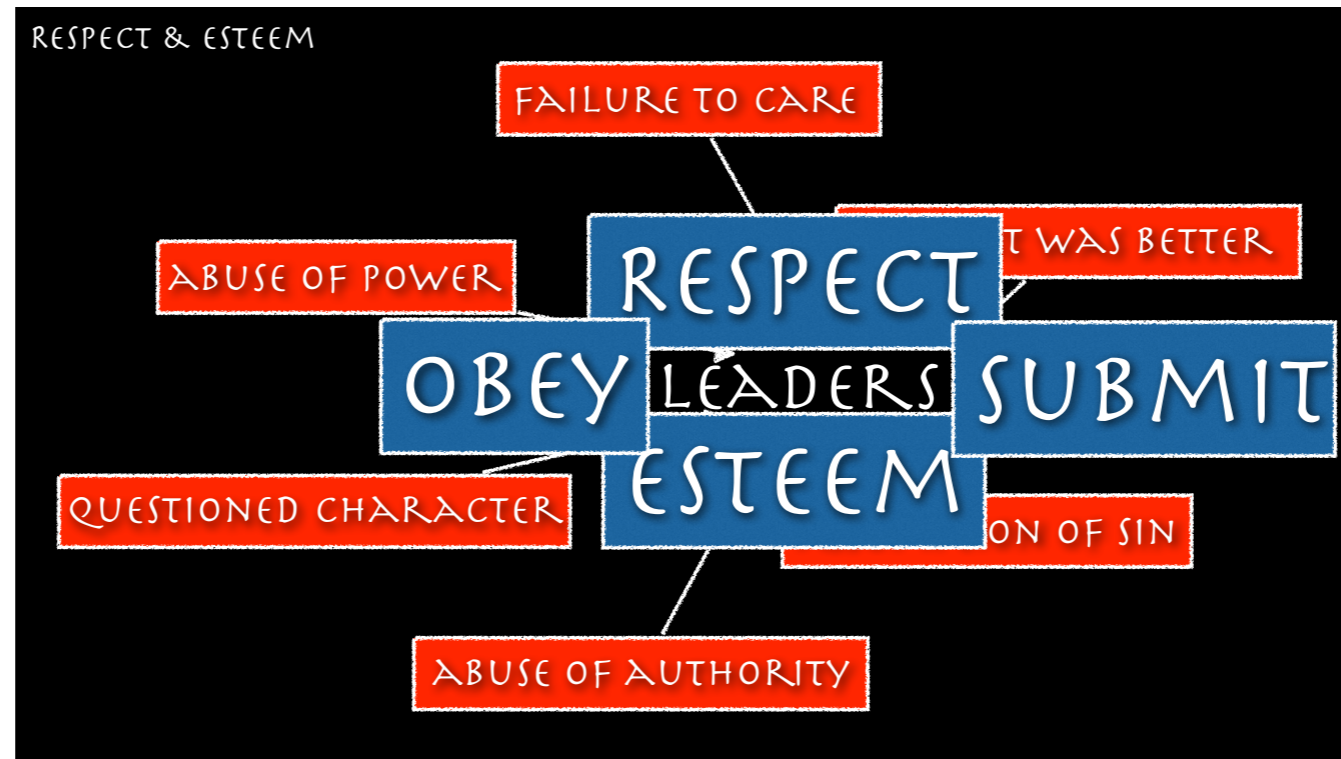
Obey your leaders and **submit** to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

- Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) 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.
- Honor leads to willing obedience and cheerful submission.



- Respect, Esteem, Obey, Submit
 - Accept: God's gift to us, lead by example, as they follow the Lord so must we.
 - Appreciate, Love: great responsibility and hard work: pray, encourage, strengthen
 - Obey and Submit: trust, do



- Moses often considered leading Israel as a burden
- When we surround our leaders, they will be able to lead with joy
 - Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) 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.**

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE SHEPHERDS?



- Are you ready to have shepherds?
 - Are we ready and willing to be lead?
 - How will we treat them in times of difficulty and trial?
 - Will we treat them like Israel treated Moses?
 - Will we constantly question their direction?
 - Will we constantly challenge their authority?

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE SHEPHERDS?



- Or will we respect and esteem them: obey and submit?
- Will we make sure they their labor among us is a joy?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Respect Those Who Labor Among You

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Synopsis: For Moses, leading the people of Israel was a great burden as he faced constant challenges to his authority and motives. In this lesson we examine our own tendency to tear down those whom our God has chosen to lead us, and contrast that with the instruction to respect, esteem, obey and submit to them.

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