

The Good Gift of Leaders

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

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But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

Live in peace with one another.

Main Point

The Lord has given you leaders for your good; and for your good, you are to acknowledge them and hold them in highest regard, always pursuing peace in the church.

Christ's Good Gift of Leaders

Ephesians 4:7-8 and 11

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Therefore it says, "*when He ascended on high, he led captive a host of captives, and gave gifts to men.*"

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.

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Therefore it says, "*when **He** ascended on high,*

*he led captive a host of captives, and **gave gifts to men.**"*

And **He gave** some as apostles, and some as prophets,

and some as evangelists, and **some as pastors and teachers.**

A faded map of Europe serves as the background for the text. The map shows the continent's outline and some internal borders. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: a large, bold title at the top center, a subtitle below it, and several faint, diagonal labels in different parts of the map. The labels include 'VÚGTH, v. v. l.', 'Národné technické', and 'múzeum'.

The Good Gift of Leaders

Acknowledge your leaders.

VÚGTH, v. v. l.

Národné technické

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

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1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we request of you, brethren, **that you *acknowledge***

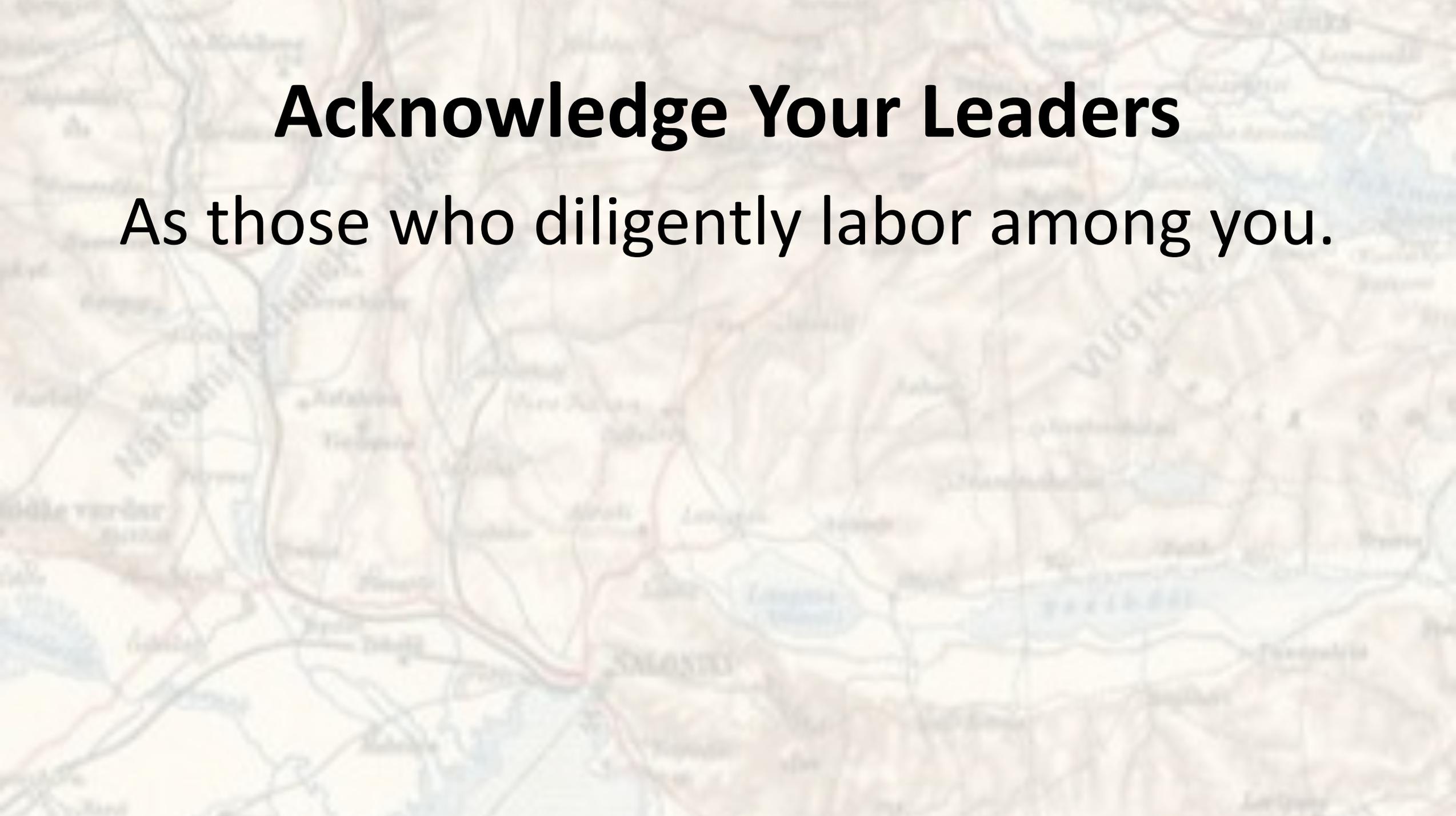
those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But **we ask you**, brethren, **to *acknowledge***

those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to acknowledge their leaders, that is, to recognize them as such and to see them as a good gift from the Lord.

A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Pacific Northwest, showing a network of rivers and terrain contours. The map is light-colored with blue lines for water and brown lines for land elevation. The text is overlaid on the map.

Acknowledge Your Leaders

As those who diligently labor among you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

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and give you instruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to **acknowledge**

those who toil among you,

and have charge over you in the Lord
and give you instruction.

This primarily means to grow tired or weary but
came to be used of laboring under a weight.

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all **who are weary** and heavy-laden...

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge

those **who toil *among you*,**

and have charge over you in the Lord
and give you instruction.

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...

Acts 20:28

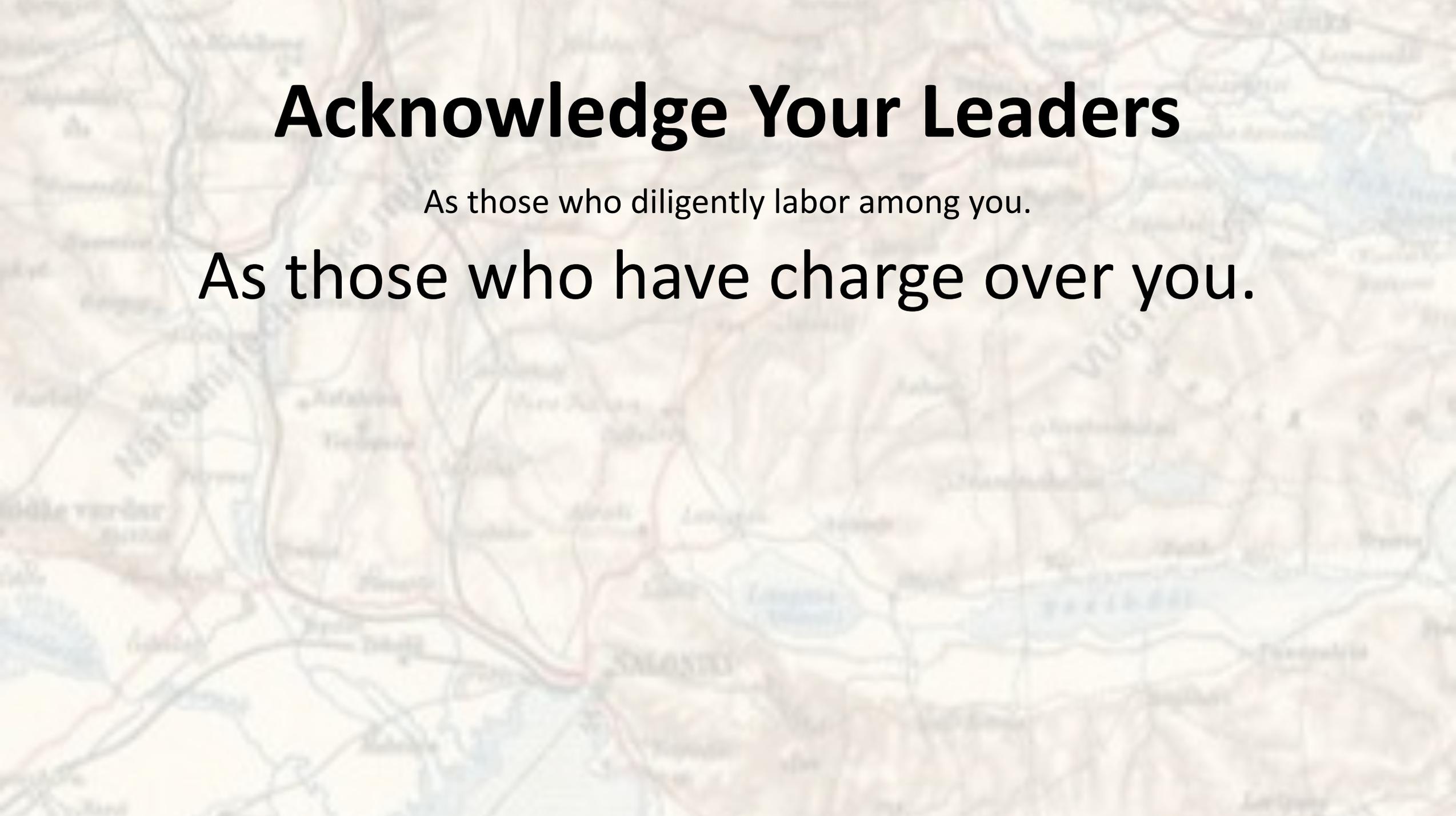
Be on guard for yourselves and **for all the flock,**
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...

The Lord has given a flock, an allotment, to each shepherd for which he is responsible.

1 Peter 5:2-3

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight ... nor yet as lording it over **those allotted to your charge...**

Worthy shepherds faithfully toil among the flock they have been allotted and gladly bear the burden of their duties.



Acknowledge Your Leaders

As those who diligently labor among you.

As those who have charge over you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

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and **have charge over you** in the Lord
and give you instruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge

those who diligently labor among you,

and ***have been set over you*** in the Lord
and give you instruction.

1 Timothy 5:17

The elders **who rule** well are to be considered
worthy of double honor, especially those
who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge
those who diligently labor among you,

and have been set over you **in the Lord**
and give you instruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge
those who diligently labor among you,

and have been set over you **by the Lord**
and give you instruction.

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has
made you overseers...

Christ has measured out His gifts,
and He has appointed His leaders.

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,

**among which the Holy Spirit has
made you overseers...**

What is the nature of this leadership?

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them,
for they keep watch over your souls
as those who will give an account.

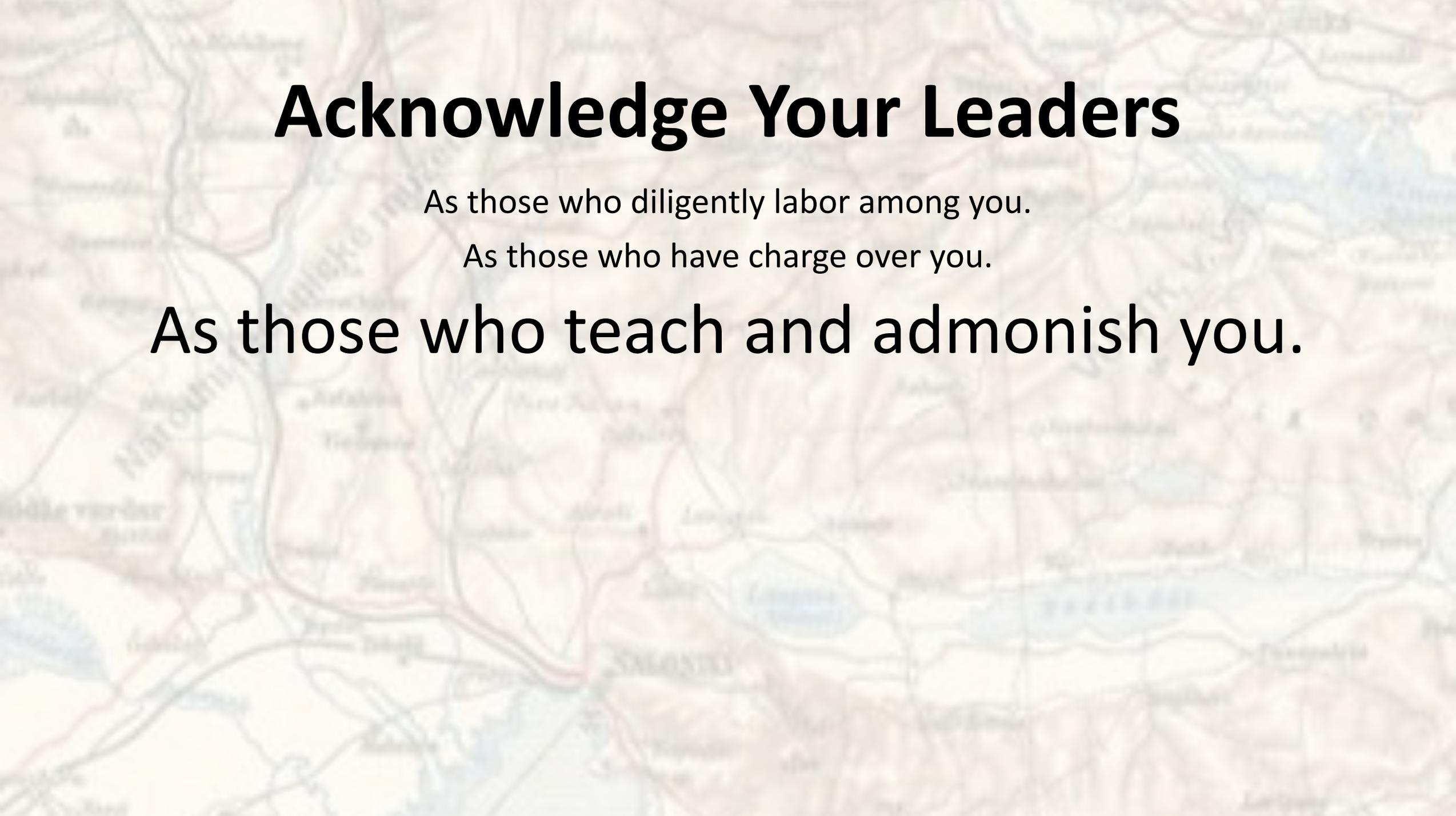
Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them,

for they keep watch over your souls

as those who will give an account.

Your shepherds have been gifted to you
for spiritual oversight and protection.
For this reason, the Lord instructs
us to acknowledge our leaders.



Acknowledge Your Leaders

As those who diligently labor among you.

As those who have charge over you.

As those who teach and admonish you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

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But we ask you, brethren, to **acknowledge**
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and have charge over you in the Lord
and **give you instruction.**

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to **acknowledge**

those who diligently labor among you,
and have charge over you in the Lord

and ***admonish you.***

This word means *to put in mind*
with a view to correction.

This work of instructional correction is a key element of what makes a leader's labor difficult.

Our ways of thinking are engrained such that admonition can be difficult to accept and may even seem offensive.

Our ability to appreciate admonition will depend *first* on our recognition of cultural indoctrination and *then* on our willingness to hear correction.

The Good Gift of Leaders

Acknowledge your leaders.

Hold your leaders in highest regard.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.
and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

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But we ask you, brethren, to **acknowledge**
those who diligently labor among you,
and **have charge over you** in the Lord
and give you instruction.
and that you esteem them very highly in love
because of their work.

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But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

and that you **esteem them** very highly in love because of their work.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

and that you **think of them** very highly in love because of their work.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

and that you **think of them *very highly*** in love
because of their work.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

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and that you **think of them *very highly*** in love
because of their work.

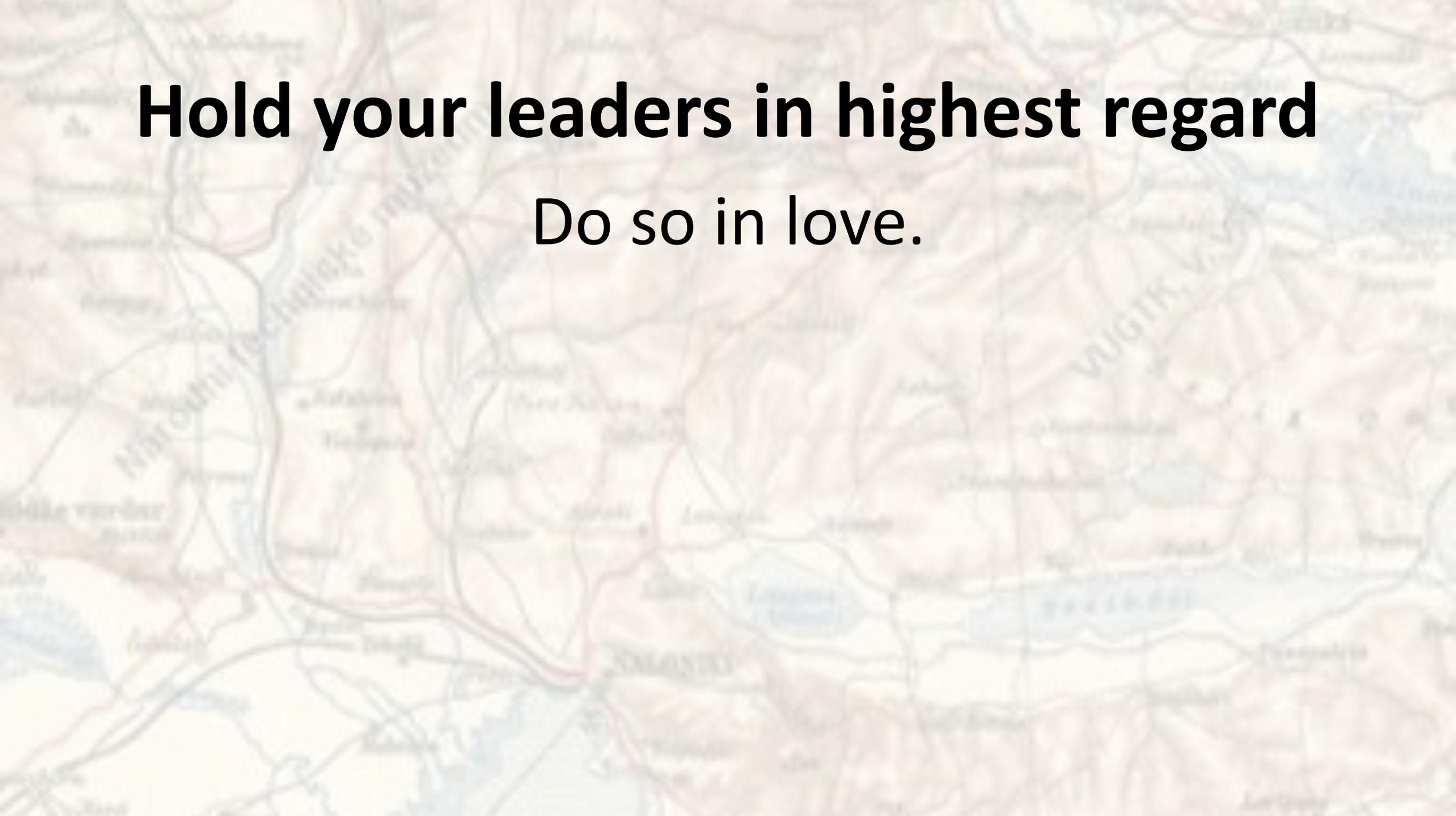
This word is three prepositions put together to communicate something like “way far beyond” or “extremely high.”

The phrase “think of them way far beyond” has the meaning *esteem them very highly* or better, *hold them in the highest regard.*

The high regard is not due to something inherent in them but is due to the gifting and calling of Christ.

Ephesians 4:8

*“When [Christ] ascended on high,
He...gave gifts to men.*



Hold your leaders in highest regard

Do so in love.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But **we ask you...to hold them
in highest regard** in love because of their work.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But we ask you...to hold them

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What would it mean to hold your
leaders in highest regard *in love*?

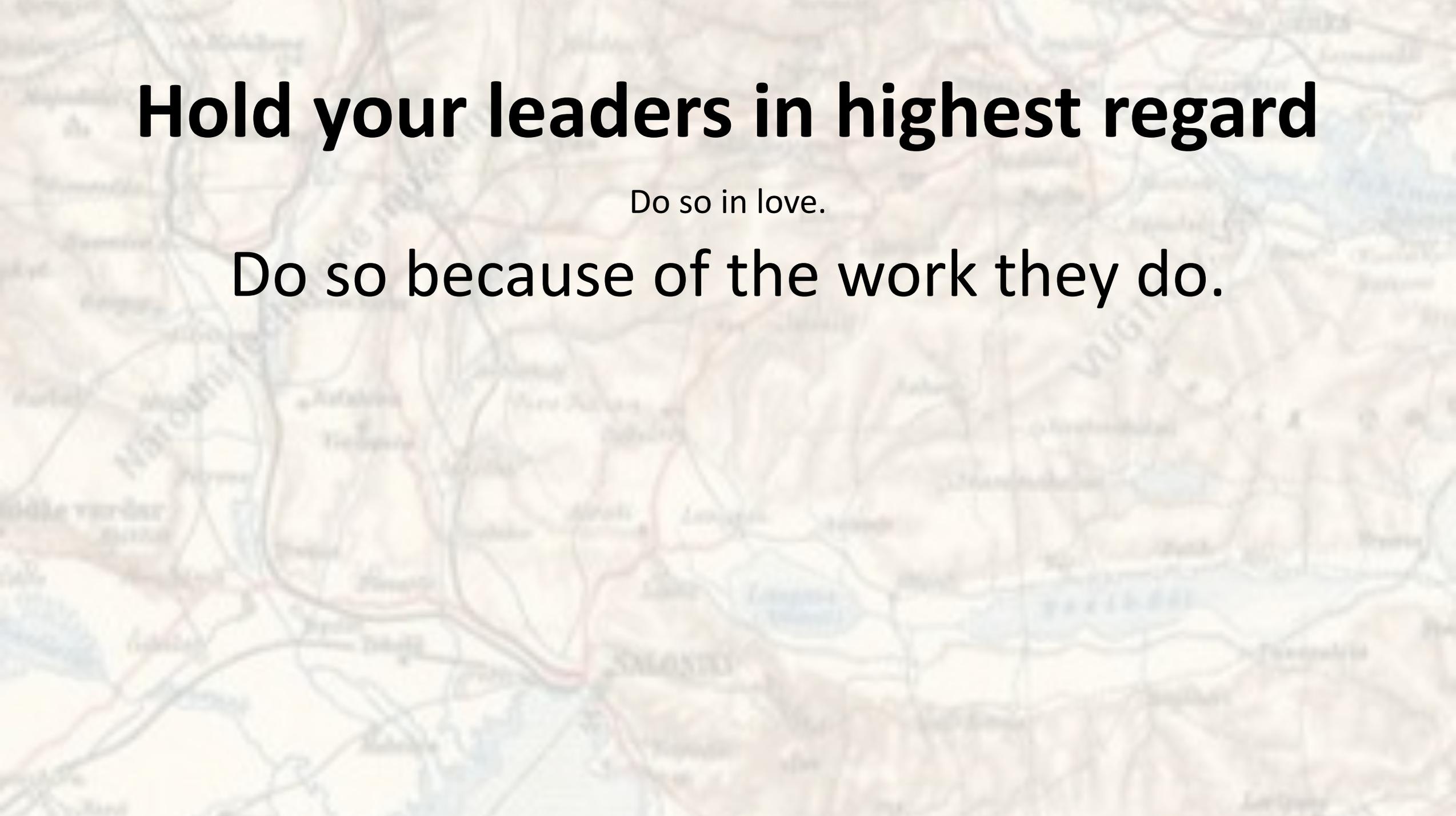
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Colossians 3:12-14

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Why is it easier to love the leader you
don't have than the one you do?



Hold your leaders in highest regard

Do so in love.

Do so because of the work they do.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But **we ask you...to hold them
in highest regard** in love because of their work.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

But we ask you...to hold them

in highest regard in love **because of their work.**

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement:
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,
it is a fine work he desires to do.

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement:
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,
it is a fine work he desires to do.

What is this work?

1 Thessalonians 5:12

But we ask you, brethren, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, and have been set over you by the Lord and give you instruction.

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Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God
which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,

among which **the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God**

which He purchased with His own blood.

The primary work of this oversight
and shepherding care is done by
teaching and admonition.

Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as apostles,
and some as prophets, and some as evangelists,
and some as **pastors and teachers.**

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and some as prophets, and some as evangelists,

and some as **pastors and teachers**.

1 Timothy 3:2

An overseer then **must...be able to teach.**

1 Timothy 4:11

Prescribe and **teach** these things...

1 Timothy 6:2

Teach and preach these principles.

2 Timothy 2:24

The Lord's bondservant **must be...able to teach.**

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, **with** great patience and **instruction.**

Acts 20:20

“I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and **teaching you** publicly and from house to house.”

1 Timothy 3:1

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it is a fine work he desires to do.

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement:

if any man aspires to the office of overseer,

it is a fine work he desires to do.

It is a good and *beneficial* work.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

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keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.
Let them do this with joy and not with grief,

for this would be unprofitable for you.

The greatest harm done by those who grumble against their leaders is to the people being led, including especially to the one grumbling.

Bitterness corrupts.

The Good Gift of Leaders

Acknowledge your leaders.

Hold your leaders in highest regard.

Pursue peace in the church.

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Live in peace with one another.

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Conclusion

Do you see your leaders as a gift given to you for your good?

What is your disposition toward your leaders, especially when you see their faults?

Are you a peacemaker, pursuing peace among your church family?