

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Preface

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read through the book of 1 Corinthians.

Answer:

- What defines your view of a “church challenge?”

- In actual practice, where do you tend to turn first for solutions?

- What relationship do you think exists between theological/doctrinal truth and facing challenges in the church?

- What role should the Bible play in shaping the life of a church?

DURING READING

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- Does the Bible recognize that churches face challenges?

- What will 1 Corinthians teach us about the relationship between theology and church life?

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- Where did Paul reach for answers when facing “the most normal of problems?”

- How did Paul argue with the Corinthian church?

- What was Paul’s “governing presupposition” about the church?

AFTER READING

Answer:

- How might your natural response to challenges need to change in light of this study?

- Is your “governing presupposition” about the church the same as Paul’s was? Ought it be?

Apply:

- What applications will you make from this?

Pray:

- Write out a prayer in response to what you’ve learned.