

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 2 - Division

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-3:23 **once**.

Answer:

- Why is unity important in the church?
 - Why do you think most Christians want unity in the church?
- Is all unity necessarily good unity?
 - Where might unity be wrong?

DURING READING

Introduction – pages 25-27

- Paul exposed that the heart of the problem of division in the Corinthian church stretched to where?
- How could a concern for unity become divisive and unproductive?
 - What lesson should be learned from that?

Reason #1 – pages 27-28

- Godly unity** _____.
- Explain the situation in Corinth.
 - How did their division create a lie about Christ?
 - How does godly unity display Christ?
 - Where are you in danger of repeating the Corinthian error?

Reason #2 – pages 28-29

- Godly unity** _____.
- What does division on the basis of what is **pleasing to worldly appetites** in terms of preaching and teaching do? Explain.
 - Do we face temptation toward such division today? Do you, personally?
- How does preaching to please worldly appetites lie about the Gospel?
- What should you look for when looking for a new church?

Reason #3 – pages 29-30

- Godly unity** _____.
- Why is it utterly foolish to divide the church over the “prestige” of preachers?
- Why does God choose the lowly?
- What makes pride, defensiveness and division difficult?
 - How can you promote humility in yourself?
- What is the goal of our gatherings?

Reason #4 – pages 31-32

- Godly unity** _____.
- Whose* wisdom should we follow?
 - How is *God’s* wisdom different from the *world’s* wisdom?
- What was the aim of the secular orators in Corinth?
 - How does that differ from Paul’s aim?
 - Why did Paul deliberately let his weakness show?
 - Where did Paul receive his wisdom?
 - How many of the world understood it?
 - Whose wisdom typically guides you in your life and view of church life?

Reason #5 – pages 32-33

- Godly unity** _____.
- If the above is true, then what do divisions reveal?
- Why were the Corinthians culpable for their spiritual immaturity?
 - What opportunities has God provided you to grow much in Christ?
 - Are you availing yourself of them?
- What does the author think of the concept of the “carnal Christian?”
 - Why might that teaching be dangerous?

- What does a true Christian want?
- Do you want that?
- What should that desire mean for our commitment to other Christians in the local church?

Reason #6 – pages 33-34

- Godly unity reflects a** _____ .
- Division in the church is essentially an attack on whom? Explain.
- On what basis will all work be judged?
- Who owns the church?
- What does this mean for the one who attacks the church?

Reason #7 – pages 34-35

- Godly unity comes from** _____ .
- How do God's promises in the Gospel make divisions totally unnecessary? Explain.
- What does the author suggest we do to grow to treasure God's promises to a greater degree?
 - Do you do these things?
 - How can you help others in your church do these things?

AFTER READING

Answer:

- How have you experienced or been involved in church division in the past?
 - In light of this chapter, how would you approach that situation differently?
- Are you experiencing division with other Christians now?
 - In light of this chapter, what will you do?

Apply:

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

Pray:

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