

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 3 – Imposters

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 4 three times.

Answer:

- Who is the greatest minister of the Gospel that you have personally known?
 - List the attributes that made this person a great minister.

- List five things you think are required for a person to be a real minister of the Gospel?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

DURING READING

THREE MARKS OF A REAL MINISTER

Mark #1 – pages 38-39

- The first mark of a real minister is his _____.

- What is a steward? What does it mean that a minister is a steward?
 - By what standard will ministers be judged?
 - What is the main task that minister have been given?
 - What is the one thing a steward is called to do above all else?

- What freedom can be found in knowing who your ultimate judge is?

- Why is it wrong to compare ministers on the basis of worldly standards?

- Record and answer Paul's three questions from verse 7?
 - 1 –
 - 2 –
 - 3 –

Mark #2 – pages 41-44

- The second mark of a real minister is his _____.**
- What is the experience of a minister of the cross?
 - What words and phrases does Paul use to describe the experience of him and others? Explain.
- How would the wealthy Corinthians have perceived Paul?
- What is the only way for anyone to follow Jesus?
 - What does such a life show to the world?

Mark #3 – pages 44-47

- _____ **are the third mark a real minister.**
- What is a real minister called to lead others to do?
- How ought a congregation to respond to a real minister of the cross?
- How should the power of a minister's teaching be measured?
 - Why does this power matter?
- Is Christian love gentle, severe, or both? Explain your answer.
- Why is the desire for discipleship essential?

AFTER READING

Answer:

- How has your understanding of what a real minister is changed?
- How can you encourage the ministers in your church to be real ministers?
- Suppose a friend wrote to you, asking what they ought to look for in a minister. In your own words, write out a brief description that would help them.

Apply:

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

Pray:

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