

# Twelve Challenges Churches Face

## A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

### Chapter 6 – Disobedience

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#### BEFORE READING

##### Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1—10:13.

##### Answer:

- What are your most valued freedoms and rights?
  - Would you give them up if it would benefit other believers?
- What are your favorite activities and hobbies?
  - Would you give them up for the sake of other Christians, if need be?

#### DURING READING

##### OBEDIENCE AND GOOD TEACHING – pages 82-87

- “The first way we learn obedience is by means of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Briefly explain the cultural background of 1 Corinthians 8.
- To what “knowledge” does Paul refer in 1 Corinthians 8:1?
  - How should this knowledge be regulated?
  - What does true knowledge of God always bring?
- What should guide the exercise of our freedom and rights?
- What defiled the food? Explain.
- How should we protect the believer with a weak conscience? Explain.
- What question should be asked pertaining to issues of behavior over which Christians disagree?

##### OBEDIENCE BY EXAMPLE – pages 87-92

- Another way we learn obedience is through a \_\_\_\_\_.
- How does Paul set a good example chapter 9?
  - What does it mean that Paul has a “right to support?”
    - How ought a church to provide for pastors and their families?

- Why didn't Paul use his right in Corinth, when he did elsewhere?
- Read carefully the paragraph of questions on page 91. Ask them of yourself.
- What rights are you giving up for the sake of others in your local church?
- What rights are you *refusing* to give up for the good of other believers?

**OBEDIENCE BY BAD EXAMPLE – pages 92-95**

- "...we learn obedience by observing the \_\_\_\_\_ of disobedience."
- List and explain the four specific warnings Paul issues from the example of the Israelites:
  - Avoid \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Avoid \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
- By which of these are you particularly tempted?

**AFTER READING**

**Answer:**

- In what ways is the attitude set forth in this chapter an application of the Gospel?
- Where does your attitude about your "rights and freedoms" need to change in light for the sake of others?
- Are there "rights" you need to surrender for the sake of others?

**Apply:**

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

**Pray:**

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