

# Twelve Challenges Churches Face

## A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

### Chapter 7 – Legalism

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#### BEFORE READING

##### Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1.

##### Answer:

- What tensions exist between the concerns for law, love, sacrifice and freedom in the Christian life?
- Give what has been covered in previous chapters, how should Christians use their liberties in light of others?

#### DURING READING

##### **FLEE FALSE GODS – pages 99-101**

- Why would Paul’s exhortation to “flee from idolatry” have been difficult for the Corinthians?
  - How is it difficult for us to hear in our context?
  - How is this command connected to his teaching on the Lord’s Supper?
  - How is this command illustrated by the Jewish sacrifices?
- In the previous section Paul taught that the Corinthian believers were free to eat meat sacrificed to idols. Is that teaching compatible with what he states here? If so, how?

##### **SEEK THE GOOD OF OTHERS – pages 101-103**

- Why does Paul write “All things are lawful?” Does he believe that?
- How should the behavior of a believer be governed?
- What questions must still be answered when we know that something is not wrong in and of itself?
  - How have you employed this principle recently? Where should you?

##### **REALIZE YOUR FREEDOM – pages 103-104**

- Upon what theological truth does Paul base his teaching that Christians are free to eat anything?
- Should we forbid Christians to do what Scripture allows?
- What attitude should we encourage toward the use of what God created?

**FORGO YOUR FREEDOMS – pages 104-106**

- Why should we sometimes forgo our freedoms?
  
- Explain Paul’s teaching about when to eat or not eat “for the sake of conscience.”
  
- What is it that Paul wants to bring clarity to in all things?

**LIVE FOR GOD’S GLORY – pages 106-109**

- How do we glorify God?
  
- When is it right to “try to please everyone?” When is it wrong?
  
- Is there an area of your life where you are wrongly trying to please everyone?
  
- Is there an area of your life where you are valuing the exercise of your rights over reaching others with the Gospel?
  
- What changes need to be made?

**AFTER READING**

**Answer:**

- What convicted you the most in this chapter?
  
- What is one attitude that you will pray for the Lord’s help in changing?
  
- What is one concrete action you will take this week in response to the Word of God?

**Apply:**

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

**Pray:**

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