

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 8 - Autonomy

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16.

Answer:

- Describe our culture's attitude toward authority. Give examples.
- What attitudes toward authority do you see in the church? in yourself?

DURING READING

THE CHRISTIAN AND RELATIONSHIPS

MORALITY – pages 112-115

- We want to communicate that Christians are committed to...
- Explain the cultural context relating to head coverings and women's hair.
- Did women pray publicly in the church? If so, was it appropriate?
 - How is a woman praying in public different than her "speaking?"
- What application does Paul's teaching on head-coverings have for how we dress today?

AUTHORITY – pages 115-116

- To whom do Christians want to communicate an appreciation for authority?
- To whom does the author suggest "angels" refers? Explain the situation.
- What did head-coverings indicate in terms of authority?
- In our church meetings, what could indicate evident disrespect for due authority?

GENDER DISTINCTION – pages 117-118

- How is God's image displayed in appropriate gender distinctions?
- What did Paul mean by "Does not nature itself teach you...?"
- How can we faithfully display gender-distinctions in our congregation?
 - How could they be confused?

THE GOSPEL – pages 118-119

- How does this passage relate to a concern for the Gospel?

HUMILITY – pages 119-120

- How should our worship gatherings communicate humility?
- What type of humility does our world promote? discourage?
 - How does that differ from the Christian approach to humility?
 - Where have you seen Chesterton’s quote prove true?

HUSBAND AND WIFE – pages 121-122

HIERARCHY

- How is hierarchy experienced and expressed in marriage?
 - If you are married, how are you living out this reality?
 - If you are single, how should this reality affect your life now?

MUTUALITY

- How is mutuality experienced and expressed in marriage?
 - If you are married, how are you living out this reality?
 - If you are single, how should this reality affect your life now?

THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON – pages 123-124

- What relationship lies at the center of biblical thinking on gender? Explain.
- What does “headship” mean?
 - Why is “source” a wrong meaning for “head” in this context?

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE CHURCH – pages 124-125

SUBMISSION TO APOSTOLIC TEACHING

- How is the reality that we are not autonomous reflected in our approach to apostolic teaching?
 - How can this be expressed in our local church?

RESPECT FOR OTHER CHURCHES

- How is the reality that we are not autonomous reflected in our approach to apostolic teaching?
 - How can this be expressed in our local church?

AFTER READING

Apply:

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

Pray:

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