

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 9 - Thoughtlessness

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

Answer:

- What concerns (practical or otherwise) are at the forefront of your thoughts...
 - ...as you prepare to gather with your congregation on Sunday morning?
 - ...as you participate in corporate worship?
 - ...as the service ends?
- Is your participation in church marked most by thoughts of yourself and your family or of others?

DURING READING

DIVISION IN THE CHURCH – pages 128-131

- What does division in the church undermine?
- Explain what division in the church evidences about...
 - ...a church's love for one another.
 - ...a church's love for God.
 - ...their observation of the Lord's Supper.
- How is divisive behavior opposed to the nature of the church?
- How can a church better reflect the character of Christ than the church in Corinth?
 - Apply your answer to yourself and your local church.

TRUE UNITY IS IN CHRIST – pages 131-135

- Where is true unity anchored?
- Explain how participation in the Supper as a unified congregation...
 - ...is an act of remembering Christ.
 - ...is covenant renewal with Christ.
 - ...is a proclamation of Christ's death.
 - ...is a "feeding on Christ by faith."

SELFISH DIVISION BRINGS JUDGMENT – pages 135-138

- What does it mean to partake of the Supper in “an unworthy manner?”
 - Against whom is it sin?
- What does it mean to “recognize the body” when partaking of the Supper?
- In what sense did God respond to their “unworthy manner” with judgment?
 - How are “judgment” (29) and “discipline” (32) different from “condemnation” (verse 32)?

CONCLUSION: ACT IN LOVE – pages 138-139

- What is the sum of Paul’s entire teaching in these verses?
 - What does that look like in the Lord’s Supper? in your church?

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Answer:

- What wrong attitudes or actions has this chapter exposed in your approach to church life?
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Apply:

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

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