

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 12 - Decline

BEFORE READING

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 16.

Answer:

- Do you think the solution to declining interest in the local church is to personalize the church to individual preferences? Why or why not?

DURING READING

MONEY WISDOM – pages 172-174

- What was the purpose of the offering Paul encouraged in this chapter?

- What is significant about the nature of caring this offering reflected?

- How should a church's use of money reflect love?

A DIVERSITY OF TEACHERS – pages 174-175

- What attitudes should we have regarding different types of teachers in the church?

A CLEAR COMMITMENT – pages 175-177

- What does Christian love call us to do?

- How do we see an example of strong, Christian love in Paul, particularly through this letter?

GOOD EXAMPLES – pages 177-178

- How ought Christians to serve one another in the local church?

- What would "devoted service" look like in your life?

- What does it mean that believers should "submit to such as these?"

- In your local church, who is doing a good job of serving the saints?

- How have you recognized, honored and celebrated them? How could you this week?

A LARGER VISION – pages 178-179

- How are Aquila and Priscilla good examples to emulate?
 - How should you be imitating their example?

- Why do you think that giving sincerely affectionate greetings to one another is good counsel to the Corinthian church?
 - What would this look like in your local church?

- Do you think it was wise for Paul to encourage a vision of love and care for other congregations, especially when the Corinthian church was facing such significant internal challenges?
 - How might developing a love for other churches help a local church with its own problems?
 - How can your local church develop a healthy love and concern for other congregations?

GRACE AND LOVE – pages 179-181

- Is there room for middle ground in Christianity?

- What is the grace of the Lord Jesus?

CONCLUSION – pages 181-182

- Why is love necessary for ministry?

AFTER READING

Apply:

- What applications will you make from this chapter?

Pray:

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