

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Twelve: Help Wanted: Spiritual Grownups

Groundwork

Read Chapter Twelve.

"We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me."
Paul, Galatians 1:28-29, The Message.

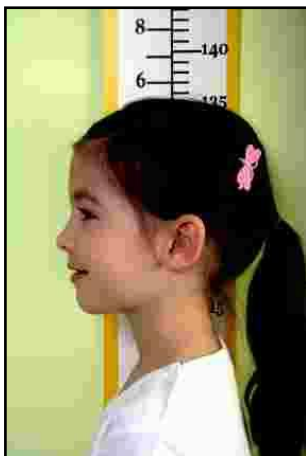
According to this chapter, what does Scripture present as the main task of the church?

What questions or points from the whole book or this final chapter would you like to discuss with your group?

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Groupwork

See pages 130-132.



Summarize several misleading ways believers and Christian groups sometimes define maturity. List both those in the book and others.

In what way does each of those misleading definitions fall short?

Read the quotation from Richard Halverson (page 132).

Have you seen evidence to support Halverson’s point in this paragraph? Support your answer with specific examples from your own experiences in the church.

From the book (pp. 133-34):

"...our real goal should be to produce mature Christians who can take their places as lights in this dark world."

"Our goal is to equip [the Christian] for a ministry in terms of his life, not in terms of our program."

"...our primary object is to produce men and women whose ordinary stations in life can be transformed into platforms for ministry...."

Do you believe the goal descriptions in the left column accurately describe what a church ought to be aiming for? Explain your answer.

To what degree are the believers you meet with intentionally and successfully pursuing this overall aim?

If you answered no to the preceding question, how can you encourage your church to equip people in terms of their own stations in life?

"...there now is lacking a serious and expectant intention to bring Jesus’ people into obedience and abundance through training."
Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy

This question appears on p. 135: "Why, then are so few giving the individual time and attention needed in teaching Christians how to live and work in the world? " How would you answer this question?

Pages 137-40.

Imagine a person gifted as a pastor [shepherd] working, not as a professional on a church staff, but in a full time in a job like yours. How might this person exercise the shepherding gift in such a role? Give specific examples.

See pages 140-42.

"Work in the Spirit that is mission, or, mission that works will be work that clears away, as much as possible, those things that seek to confound the purposes of God and threaten to destroy his kingdom."

Darrell Cosden, The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work (p. 146)

The final pages of the book offer 15 or so descriptions of what would mark a mature believer [the generic "man" means man or woman]. If you were to choose a "top five" among these, what would they be?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What marks of a mature Christian would you add to those in the book?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Suppose the work world were peppered with mature believers who had been equipped to turn their work lives into platforms for ministry. What kinds of results would you expect?

Heartwork

What new insights has the Lord given you through your interaction with the questions in this course and through the discussions in your group?

"The Spirit of God calls, endows, and empowers Christians to work in their various vocations."

Miroslav Volf, Work in the Spirit (p. 115)

Write a prayer expressing to God what you would like to see him do in and through you in your workplace.
