

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 10 - 4/28/19

OVERVIEW

Sometimes the choices we make in life are from a place of guilt or wrong motivations, but in Nehemiah 10, we look at the Israelite people and how they made a firm covenant before God to obey the commandments that God had placed before them. They committed and responded from a sincere heart. We have the opportunity to respond to God's love in a similar way. What are we living for? What are our motivations? Owning the future God has for us looks like asking Him to define a new way of living—a better way. A way of living from our response to God rather than out of guilt!

Scriptures (all NIV): Nehemiah 9:38, Nehemiah 10:28-29, I John 4:9-11, I John 4:19

APPLICATION

1. What is something you're highly committed to and why?
2. At this point in your life, what are your initial feelings when it comes to making new commitments?
3. Dead and lifeless religion uses guilt to force us into commitment. Have you ever committed to something or someone out of guilt? (Guilt can come from outside sources or can be self-inflicted.)
4. In Nehemiah 10, the people of Israel commit to respond to God's love by obeying what God has asked them to do. Think about an area in your life that may not fully reflect God's love. What's keeping you from fully committing?
5. I John 4:19 describes our love as a direct response to what God has done: "We love because He first loved us." Jeremy described this love as more powerful and life-giving than any other kind of response. What might you change in your life in response to what God has done for you?

Homework: Read I John 4:9-11 each day this week. Reflect on what God has done for you through Jesus. Ask Him how you might respond to that gift.