

## #15 "Covenant and Commitment"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah - Study Notes

Eastside Christian Fellowship: Dec. 2, 2007

### **Text: Nehemiah 9:38-10:29**

Discuss with your Home Group the context of the text for this week. Contemplate what has happened to the people and their hearts in chapters 8 & 9. What have they been through? What realizations have they come to? How would you define their relationship with God at this point? How about their relationship as a community?

Define what a covenant is. Where else in Scripture can you remember there being a covenant? What was significant about it?

After considering the events of chapter 8 & 9, why do you think the people are compelled to make a covenant as stated in **9:38**? Who is the covenant between? Why is the whole community involved? Who signed it? What is the significance of that? Who was the first to sign the "binding covenant"? What leadership principal do you take away from this?

Define what role a vow or commitment plays within a covenant.

What does Jesus say in Matthew 5:33-37 regarding oaths and being a person of your word?

Define the covenant that we have through Jesus?

What does Jesus say about this covenant in Mark 14:22-25?

Are you a party in this covenant? How so? What is your role?

Both baptism and communion are vows of commitment within the covenant we are a part of through Jesus. Baptism is a one time initial vow of commitment to Christ. Communion would be considered an ongoing vow of commitment. Talk about this in your group. How is baptism a vow much like that in the covenant of marriage? What are the lasting results of that vow?

Discuss communion and the way in which it is to be a renewal of our commitment to the covenant.

Is there significance in the fact that both baptism and communion are personal commitments done within a public community of faith?

Is there value in a covenant between people at a church? What does that look like? In what way does that already exist at ECF? Is there an understood (not signed) covenant between your home group members? Explain.

The people in Neh. 10 made four vows. We will only discuss the first one today.

1. **The first vow they took was to adhere to (walk in) the law of God and to carefully obey all of the commandments and ordinances.** The equivalent for us today is to: **Be devoted to let the Bible be your ultimate authority as you walk through life.**

Is the Bible the authority in your life and are you intentional to walk in it's ways?