

**restoring grace**

**[Nehemiah 9-10]**

amanah vs. berit

**confession**

Nehemiah 9

**we are in great distress**

James 1.22-25

you

the great cover-up

they

we

**[big questions]**

Are you aware of the mess you are in?

What do you do with your sin?

What will it take for you to cry out and experience God's restoring grace?

**true confession**

1 John 1.8-10

**Memorize this-**

Psalms 32.3-5

<sup>3</sup> When I refused to confess my sin,  
my body wasted away,  
and I groaned all day long.

<sup>4</sup> Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.  
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

<sup>5</sup> Finally, I confessed all my sins to you  
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.  
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD."  
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

-Psalm 32.3-5 (NLT)

1 John 1.9

**response**

Nehemiah 10

**[repair and restore.12]**

**[repair and restore.12]**

**restoring grace:** Nehemiah 9-10  
[going deeper]

What thought, idea or observation from this teaching did you find to be the most useful, encouraging, eye-opening or even troubling? Explain.

What are three things about you that most people wouldn't know? What is it like to reveal those things to others? What comes to mind when you think about confessing?

**Read Nehemiah 9-10**

The people recount their story with God. What are some of the things that they acknowledge about God and His relationship with them? Why would those be things that are relevant to their confession?

Confession should be something that results from knowing God more deeply. Why do you think this would be? Is it possible that this is one of the reasons we actually fear knowing God more deeply?

What are some of the things that they acknowledge about their ancestors and their relationship with God? Why do you think it would be important for them to bring those things up? Do you notice any patterns? Explain.

Why do you think they are confessing things that their ancestors did? These people weren't alive then, they didn't do those exact things, did they? So then, why does it matter to them and to God?

Confession involves taking ownership for sin. Why is that so important? Why is it so difficult? How do the Jewish people take ownership?

Confession is not a statement of good intentions, but an initiation of practical and visible change in life and practice. How the Jewish people in Nehemiah 9-10, affirm this?

**[repair and restore.12]**

**Read Psalm 32.3-5**

It is a real temptation to try to cover up our sins and failures. Why do we do that? How well does that work? Can you identify with what David says in vs. 3-4? Explain.

When we confess our sins and failures, we experience freedom. Why do you think this happens? If this is true, why then is it so hard for us to confess?

**Read 1 John 1.8-10**

According to these verses, to cover up our sin is to lie about it—to pretend it's not there, what does that make us? What does God promise if we are willing to confess? How do we experience grace when we are willing to confess?

Look back at God's story in Nehemiah 9. How have you seen that story play out in your life? It's a whole lot easier to confess when we are able to put our sins and failures in the context of God's grace. If you confess, you will be forgiven.

Take some time to frame your sins and failures up to God's grace. What are you covering up that you need to confess? Write it out and then confess them to God—out loud so that at least you can hear it. Then, thank Him for the restoring grace of His forgiveness.

How will this change you?

**[repair and restore.12]**