

What Will We Do With Sin?

Ezra 9 and 10

We need to deal with sin as soon as we become aware of it!

Ezra shows us three stages in dealing with sin:

1. Awareness (9:1-2)
2. Godly grief (9:3-4)
3. Repentance (9:5-10:44)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Studies suggest that Christians and their non-Christian friends don't behave very differently from one another. Why do you suppose that would be?
2. Can you think of a time when you confronted someone with their sin? How did it go?
3. James 5:16 tells us to confess our sins to each other. Do we do that? Why or why not? What benefit might be found in confessing sin to a brother/sister in the Lord? Do you have a relationship that would allow you to be that vulnerable? How might you go about developing one?
4. What resources are you aware of that can help people gain victory over sin in their lives? Name as many as you can. Do you have any firsthand experience with them?
5. What does unconfessed sin do to our relationship with God? What does it do to our ability to represent Him to others?
6. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, Paul contrasts godly grief and worldly grief. What does each lead to? Why? Read Matthew 26:69-27:5. Do you see godly and worldly grief in this account?
7. Pastor Ken often recommends a format for prayer that includes Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (ACTS). What's the benefit of each of those four pieces? Is there wisdom in the order of them? How specific should your confession be? Can you commit to using that format this week?