

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **November 20, 2016** sermon, "Old Challenges for New Beginnings." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 13:1-31) together out loud.

TO CONTINUE ADVANCING GOD'S WORK, NOTE . . .

1. **When relational separation is essential.** (1-9, 23-31)
 - A. Do not ask, "Where do you draw the line?" Ask instead, "Who draws the line?"
 - B. Do not let those crying for "tolerance" guilt you into compromise.
 - i. Be careful that "inclusion" does not lead to compromise.
 - ii. Do not substitute 'good works' or even 'unity' as the goal.
 - iii. The goal is Christ Jesus, and under that goal we have good works and unity.
 - iv. If we start with the wrong goal, we will go to the wrong destination.
2. **Why financial support is critical.** (10-14)
 - A. It is an honor to be able to give to the work of the Lord.
 - B. Let us not look at giving as a "sacrifice," but as a blessing.
3. **How biblical Sabbath is beneficial.** (15-22)
 - A. God made the Sabbath for man.
 - B. We are instructed to observe a Sabbath, which is "proportional" (one-seventh), not simply "chronological" (seventh day, or first day).
 - C. The Sabbath reminds us how empty life is without God.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We are surrounded with people who cry out for unity. It is sometimes viewed as a high Christian value. Who is currently crying out for unity in your life? Is that person in Christ and desiring to let the Scriptures be the authority over you? Why is this crucial? If the person is unwilling to allow the Scriptures to be their authority, are you willing to live with disunity? Why is this so difficult?
2. Based on #1, above: There are some people in your life whom you are called to love even while they do not allow the Scriptures to be the authority over them. You are not called to have unity with them, but to love them. How can you relationally separate from those who will not submit to God, even while loving them? How can we pray for you?
3. Based on #2, above: This is the second week in a row when Nehemiah ties a spiritual awakening and/or spiritual obedience to joyful financial giving to the work of the Lord. Where are you in the process of joyfully obeying the Lord in the area of giving?
4. Based on #3, above: Do you have a day of rest of every week? Is this day focused on learning of God and worshipping him? How can you grow in this discipline? What are some good things that would have to go if you would observe a Sabbath? What are some disciplines that you would love to cultivate on the Sabbath? (Reading, memorizing, extra rest, podcasts, etc.)