



August 30, 2020

Ezra 9–Kevin Sneed

1. Read Ezra 9:1-4. What are ways that we are tempted to assimilate wrongly to our culture? Why do you think guarding against assimilation is so important to God and so good for us?
2. Read verses 5-14. What can we learn about confession of sin in verses 6-7? Why do you think Ezra also confessed the sins of his people when there was zero evidence of his direct involvement in the sins he was confessing? How might that apply to us as we seek to live in community together?
3. What is the connection between confession (v. 6-7) and God's grace (vv. 8-9)? Why is this connection so important to us today?
4. What happens to their community (and our community) when the Word of God is not taken seriously? (vv. 10-12)

5. In Romans 2 Paul says, *“Do not show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”* Discuss how the grace of God at its essence should lead us to repentance.

6. Do you tend to assimilate into culture or isolate from culture? Kevin talked about the need for integrating the way of Jesus as an alternative way of being within the culture around us. What does it look like for you to establish practices and boundaries to avoid assimilating or isolating from culture?

7. What are ways we put ourselves in a position to receive the grace of God that leads to repentance? What new habits or new attitudes could help with this?

8. Challenge each person in your group to write out a personal prayer of confession this week. Thank God that his graciousness exceeds our guilt.