

**December 5, 2021**  
**Ezra 9:1-15**  
**“Confession Of Sin”**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Ezra, a man who was devoted to the Law, became the focal point of major reform. There is no substitute for knowledge of the Scriptures, devote yourself to daily Bible study.

Ezra’s prayer may be compared to those of Nehemiah and Daniel.

- (1) General confession, **v six**.
- (2) Confession of sins of former times, **v six**.
- (3) A recital of God’s mercy and goodness, **vv 8-9**.
- (4) A further confession of Israel’s sins, **vv 10-12**.
- (5) A final confession of guilt and the appeal, **vv 13-15**.

Marriage to Gentiles/pagans at this time was a detestable practice. God’s people were not to marry outsiders, see **Exodus 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-4**.

Race was not behind this prohibition because the surrounding peoples were of the same Semitic race as they. The reasoning was strictly spiritually related. God’s people were not to marry outside Israel because they would be tempted, see **I Kings 11:3-5**. They would get caught up in pagan worship/idolatry. The people God was warning them about here were the same people groups He warned them about centuries before in **Deuteronomy 7:1**. The really sad part was that some of the leaders were the very ones leading them into these evil practices! Leaders/teachers are held to a higher standard, see **James 3:1**. This was OT, the NT is similar, **II Corinthians 6:14-18** marriages with unbelievers are condemned; **I Corinthians 7:39** Christian widows were explicitly advised to marry believers.

Ezra confirmed several attributes of God, His:

- Grace **V 8**.
- Kindness **V 9**.
- Anger **V 14**.
- Righteousness **V 15**.

**Application:**

Leaders and the community of believers are to take immediate decisive action when an issue arises that threatens the life and effectiveness of the church body. That was the problem facing Ezra and the people of Israel in our passage today.

This type of action is an act of kindness to the very people who are sinning. Should they continue in the way of rebellion against God, consequences will follow. The kind thing to do is to call out the sin and take immediate action to bring the sinful action(s) to an abrupt closure.

We all sin, we all fall short of the glory of God, but when sin is confessed and there is genuine repentance there is forgiveness and restoration of fellowship with God.