

1. Nehemiah's Reaction to Intermarriage with Unbelievers

- a) What problem existed during the time of Nehemiah in spite of the promises made to the LORD? Nehemiah 13:23-24, 28 (see Nehemiah 10:30)
- b) What are your thoughts about Nehemiah's treatment of those who intermarried with unbelievers? Nehemiah 13:25
- c) What illustration does Nehemiah provide of the negative consequences of intermarrying with unbelievers? Nehemiah 13:26-27
- d) How does Nehemiah's conduct reflect the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:43-45 and Matthew 7:12?
- e) While we might not approve of every aspect of Nehemiah's conduct, why was he correct in reproving those who intermarried with unbelievers? Deuteronomy 7:1-3

2. Ezra's Reaction to Intermarriage with Unbelievers

- a) Ezra 9:1-2 What problem was reported to Ezra the priest?
- b) How did Ezra respond to the report about intermarriage with unbelievers? Ezra 9:3-4, 10:5-6
- c) Why is it vitally important to seek divine guidance when dealing with challenging issues?
- d) Why does the LORD hold leaders (Ezra 10:18-44) to a high standard in terms of their personal conduct? 1 Peter 5:1-4

- e) How did Ezra the priest address the issue of intermarriage with unbelievers? Ezra 10:10-12
- f) How can we avoid repeating the same mistakes our forefathers made?

3. More Inspired Counsel about marriage

- a) Name some other Bible characters besides Solomon whose lives were detrimentally affected by marriage with unbelievers.
- b) Name Bible characters who married a spouse from another nation after that individual had become a follower of the one true God. (Salmon & Rahab, Boaz & Ruth, etc.)
- c) What is the meaning of 2 Corinthians 6:14?
- d) How should a married individual who becomes a Christian relate to an unbelieving spouse? 1 Corinthians 7:12-16
- e) Share a testimony of being part of a family where there was a combination of believers and unbelievers. What lessons did you learn from your experience?
- f) What counsel would you give to a friend who is contemplating marriage to "a wonderful person" who is not a follower of Jesus?

