

Excellence
Nehemiah 13
Restoring the Broken

Vision Courage Perseverance Integrity Distractions Value Joy Repentance Gratitude

Excellence

- To carry something through and beyond _____ and be of high quality.

1. Compromised the _____ of God – 1-14

How can there be excellence in worship when the enemy has a place of residence right in your place of worship?

How did this happen?

Verse 3 - When they heard the law

They stopped listening to the Word of God.

Application:

God desires excellence in our bodies.

We are the Temple of God and the Holy Spirit of God dwells within.

God dwells in you as a believer.

How have you drifted from God in your body?

Watch the progression:

Double minded – Not the excellent – You stop being in the Word

Desire – You make decisions based on how you feel or “I prayed about it and I feel...”

Deceived – It is easy to be deceived when you are not in the Word and convinced by your _____.

Disobey – Blatant disobedience now is not a big deal.

Death – We destroy our testimony, our _____ and sometimes our lives.

Is there a sin in your life that you need to stop?

It starts when we slip from the excellent.

2. Compromised a _____ of God – 15-22

God gave the 10 commandments, not the 10 suggestions!

Actually, there were 613 commands in the OT that the Israelites were to follow.

Most of the time, they did not obey not out of ignorance but rebellion.

Application:

Is there a clear command of God's Word that you are violating but you rationalize it away?

We have become Christians by Comparison instead of Christians by Conformity.

Watch the progression:

Double minded – Not in the Word

Desire – We confuse need with _____.

Deceived – Maybe God wants to work this way – end _____ the means.

Disobey – We break the command

Death – Loss of respect for your God by others

3. Compromised in _____ – 23-28

Mixing the things that are God's with that which is not – makes it no longer God's.

3.1 It is not God's will to date or marry an _____.

The whole point of marriage is to picture the gospel. Eph. 5:21–33; Rev. 21:9–27.

3.2 It is not God's will to date or marry a _____ believer. 2 Thess. 3:6

Watch the progression:

Double minded – Not in the Word

Desire – They are nice, kind and beautiful

Deceived – We could win them over

Disobey – They married when they knew clearly, they should not

Death – Loss of opportunity and unity

3.3 What if you are _____ to an unbeliever?

The unsaved spouse receives some of the blessings of God through marriage.

Additional thoughts:

We are to have friendships with the unsaved for the purpose of reaching them with the Gospel.

We need to insulate and not _____ ourselves with the Word of God.

Even adults need to be careful with whom they "hang around" with.

Application:

Three times in this chapter, Nehemiah asks God to “remember him.”

1. Nehemiah was a man of excellence – his love was faithful and loyal beyond his reputation.

He constantly made the right choices in the small things.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Sometimes in life, we take 2 steps forward and one step back.

“We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.”

— Henry Ward Beecher

2. Nehemiah was a man of excellence because he wanted a passionate relationship with God.

He sensed the Joy of the Lord on his life.

Compassion – to be troubled, to look compassionately on, to spare

3. Nehemiah was a man of excellent because he didn't quit because of failure.

When we fail, own it, confess it, celebrate God's love and change.... again, and marvel at God's patience.

Favor – the condition of prospering in life

Let this be your prayer this week.

Lord, make me a person of excellence

I want to always expand my knowledge base. I want to be open to your teaching. I do not want to be static but creative in approach. I do not want to carry an arrogant attitude. I do not want to be defensive to criticism.

I want to settle for nothing less than the excellent in everything that I am, I do or will be for your glory.

2 Peter 1:3

seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.