

Recap of 2/3/19 (Nehemiah 5:9-11):

1. Nehemiah confronts the sin of the nobles and officials and calls them to follow the Word of God and to make restoration.
2. The Church, the Body of Christ, must take sin in the church seriously today. We are often focused on the sins of unbelievers while ignoring the sins of believers. Paul instructed the church in 1 Corinthians 5:12, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those who are inside? God will judge those outside."
3. The New Testament speaks of two types of sinning believers. In 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, Paul mentions those believers who practice sin as a habit, and are unrepentant. They have no intention of changing. Paul says to separate from them because a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough (1 Cor. 5:6). Yeast in this case is symbolic of sin. Sin unchecked will work through the whole Body. This may require loving confrontation.
4. The second type of sinning believers is one, who, according to Galatians 6:1, is "caught in a sin." Literally they are running from sin but it overtakes them or catches them. They are "caught by a sin." This may be a seasoned believer who should know better, or a new believer, who is just beginning to grow and change. The answer in this case is to gently and lovingly restore them to usefulness for God.
5. The Compact Guide to the Christian Life suggests the following three ways for the believer to avoid sin:
 - One, we must be focused upon God's Word and what it says about sin (Psalm 119:11,97,148).
 - Two, "Sin should be the last thing you want to do, because it grieves your [heavenly Father], mars the glorious image of God in you, and probably hurts someone else who bears the image of your Father."
 - Three, we must walk in the Light (1 John 1:5-9), earnestly desiring to be rid of all sin, resisting sin, confessing sin when we're aware of it, and trusting God to forgive us and cleanse us when we confess.