

Honor The Lord

Ezra 10:11-12

Israel has returned home after being in captivity, but they recognized that something was not right. They had intermingled with the foreigners, taking their daughters as their wives and producing children. They admitted this to Ezra, and because of this the nation had suffered. They had been warned by God about the corruption that dwelt in the land, but they chose to ignore him. Now they are standing before the Lord in a repentant state.

They had been caught red-handed and suffered the consequences. They had not honored the Lord. Ezra instructed the people to separate themselves from these people because they had been guilty of a lot of things for a long time including the marriages.

They took Ezra's advice and separated themselves. By electing to have foreign wives who did not worship the true and living God, they were likely being pulled away. By not having boundaries you will get sucked into a lifestyle not of your choosing.

When you repent of your sins there has to be action, not just a declaration. There has to be a 180 degree turn around, and you have to divest yourself of whatever causes you to sin. If there is something foreign in your life, get rid of it. If it does not align with God's will, forsake it. The Israelites sent the foreign wives and children back.

If you are in a covenantal relationship with God, righteousness and wickedness have nothing in common. Don't jeopardize your relationship with God for a moment of pleasure. Don't have concern for the things of the world, but have concern for the

things of God. Everyday ask God to crucify your flesh so that you can live a life that is pleasing to him. Let the light and the love of God glow in you. Know that the heart is deceitful, so ask to be cleansed so that a Holy God can reside in you.