

**WHY IS IT SO HARD TO APOLOGIZE?**

Apologies are hard. Right?

Why is this so?

What all is involved?

Who has modeled apologies or confession for you?

**LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE**

This chapter will be studied for two successive weeks. Daniel knew, that according to Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 25), the end of the 70 years of captivity and exile was near. He also knew, that this exile was God's discipline for their own sin, rebellion, and transgression. They had ignored God's warnings through His prophets and were now a small remnant in Persia.

Read through Daniel's response to their discipline and situation in 9:1-19 and consider the following questions.

What was Daniel's posture toward God?

Why were the Jews in this situation? What brought this about?

From what Daniel wrote, what did he know about the character of God?

What words and phrases did Daniel use to describe sin by the Jewish people? (be specific)

What does Daniel fear will happen without repentance?

What do we learn from the Old Testament about repentance? (See 2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 55:7; Jeremiah 3:12-14; Ezekiel 33:11; Joel 2:12-14)

Read 1 John 1:9. Does this encourage you to go to God when you have sinned?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What stands out to you in this passage? What do learn from Daniel's confession?

Why should one man confess sin for the whole nation? Does it matter?

In Mark 1:15, Jesus spoke to our need for "repentance." What is the role of repentance in our relationship with God and others? How is confession connected with repentance? Why? How is this important in our covenant with God?

Should we confess sin for our people? For our church? For ourselves? Why?

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

Confession is hard, very hard. It is an acknowledgement of the truth our life – we have a deep rooted problem of sin, pride, and selfishness. But it is the starting place of a right relationship with God. King David wrote to God, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Psalm 51:4). Confession and repentance are essential to every relationship, especially with God. If we know the truth about God, then we know that He wants us to come to Him when we have sinned. He has repeatedly shown Himself to be forgiving. If we understand and own that, it encourages us to 'run to and not from' our forgiving Father. For He promises that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9) God wants us to live with Him in peace, joy, and love.

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray for our teams going to Greece and Poland to serve global partners
- Please pray for our Young Adults on retreat this coming weekend (3/21-23)
- Please pray for our team of 35 heading to build a loft-house in Mexico