

**Nehemiah: Building a Life of Faith**  
***The Danger of Selfishness***  
**Nehemiah 5:1-13 (page 338)**

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The danger of *selfishness* creeps into my life when I

**ignore and disobey God's Word**

(5:1-5; Ex 22:25-27; Deut 23:19-20; Lev 25:35-43)

- Refusing to hear and obey God's Word leads to trouble in my life and the lives of those around me.

The **response** to *selfishness* is to

- Refuse to ignore sin in my life  
(5: 6; Mark 3:5; Ex 32:19-20; 2 Cor 13:5)
- Confront sin in my life  
(5:7; Gen 3:9-11; 2 Sam 12:1-7; Acts 5:1-6)
- Not justify sin in my life  
(5:8; Gen 3:12-13; 1 Sam 15:1-20; 2 Sam 12:13)
- Realize that sin prevents me from honoring God  
(5:9; Isa 43:23-24; Isa 49:6; Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:11-12)

I can **correct** the problem by:

- Resolving to stop it (5:10; Isa 1:16-17; John 5:14; 1 Cor 15:34)
- Dealing with it now, not later! (5:11; Lk 19:5-10)
- Taking God seriously (5:12-13; Eccl 5:4-7)

**Taking it home....**

Which area is most difficult for me? *Ignoring* my sin...*confronting* my sin...*justifying* my sin...having little concern for *honoring* God with how I live. What can I do this week to begin to change?

How is selfishness so damaging to my spiritual life? How does it cause damage to others? How does it dishonor God?