

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 13:23 – 31



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Truth 1: If you belong to the Lord, you may only marry someone who belongs to the Lord.



1 Corinthians 7:39

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, *she is free to marry anyone she wishes*, but he must belong to the Lord.



Truth 2: Discipleship is comprehensive



**Faith isn't a la carte;
it's comprehensive.**

**Discipleship means
we follow "the Way".**



A Disciple's Faith:



Every command
has lessons only
revealed by
obedient faith

3 pursuits of obedient faith:

- 1. Rejecting willful misunderstanding**
- 2. Learning the Mind of Christ**
- 3. Learning the nature of your humanity**

I. Rejecting Willful Misunderstanding

**Planning for the revolt of our wounds and wants by
infiltrating our rationality**

The Flesh's 'outrage attack'

Wounds

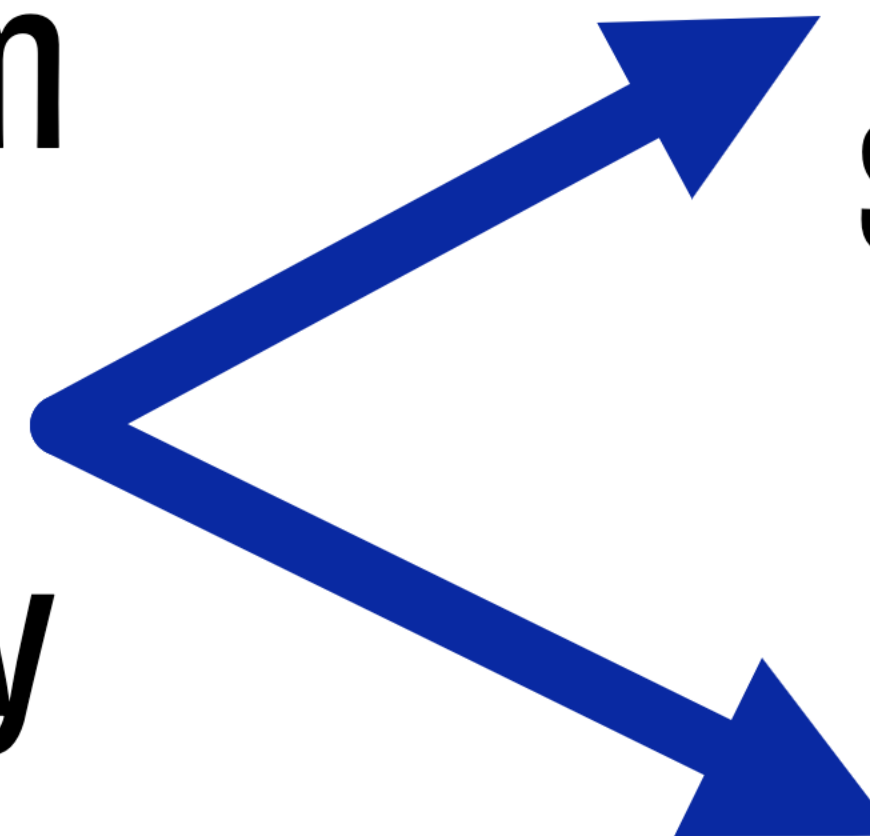
Rationalization

Rejection

victimology
inferiority
shame/guilt
isolation
anger



pragmatism
escapism
inevitability

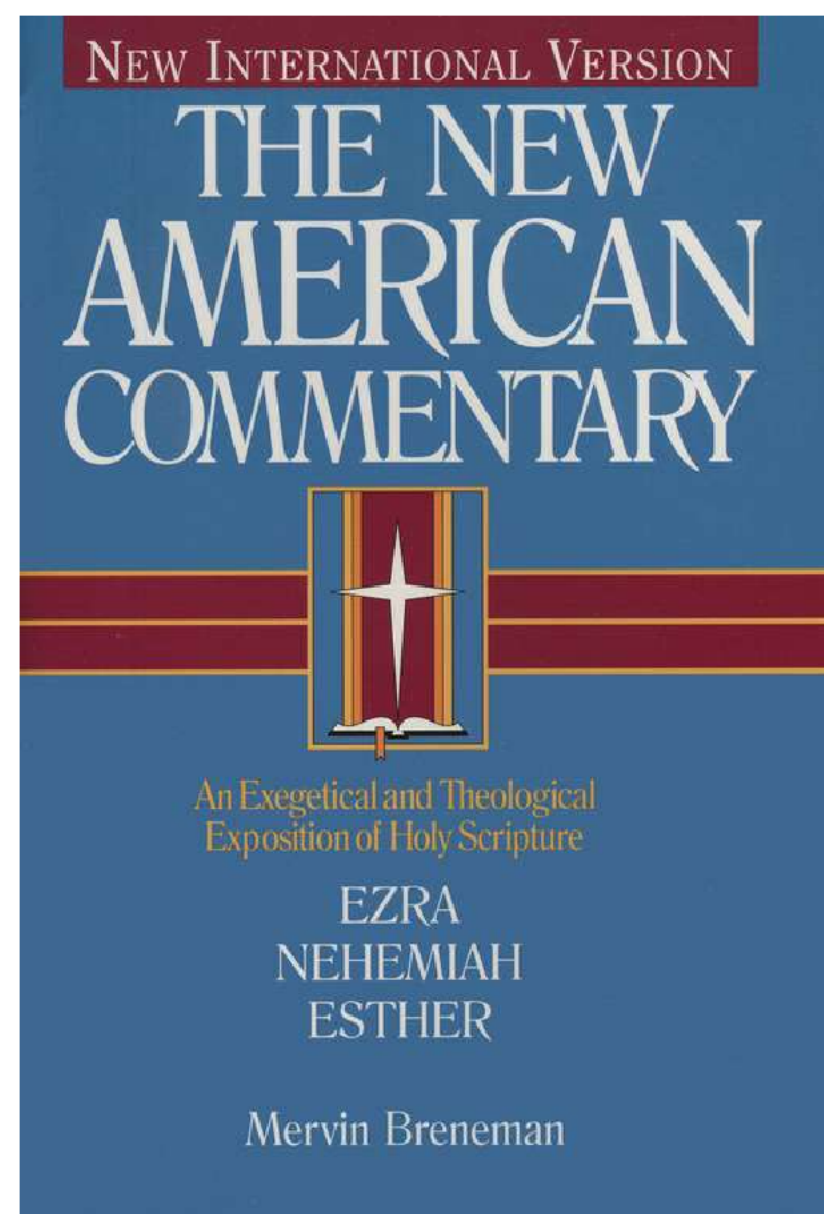


Moral
superiority

Moral
independence

God didn't say:

1. Don't love the non-believer you're married to
2. You can't marry someone "different"



"Removal of foreigners should not be viewed as racial exclusivism. As always, foreigners could become part of Israel by conversion (cf. Ezra 6:21; Ruth 1:16–17)" Mervin Breneman



Ezra 6:21 – 22

So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel. For seven days they celebrated with joy the Feast of Unleavened Bread,



God is more woke than you and gives terrifying independence

- 1. God is more inclusive and accepting of others 3000 yrs ago than we were 15 years ago, and probably are now.**
- 2. The only stipulation God puts on marriage, is that the person "belongs to the Lord". (humanity and complimentary gender is assumed)**

2. Learning the Mind of Christ

Pursuing the logic and lesson of the command.

Becoming one

With the Lord

1 Corinthians 6:17
**He who unites
himself with the
Lord is one with him
in spirit.**

With a woman

Ephesians 5:31 "For this
reason a man will..be
united to his wife, and
the two will become
one flesh."



Comprehensive Relationships

Both the Lord and a wife become our most:

1. Influential

2. Intimate

3. Comprehensive

companion through a permanent,
unbreakable covenant.



This means..

These two unions will either be:
comprehensive mutual supporters
or
constantly provoking rivals.



Comprehensive Discipleship..

- 1. sets up no rivals to its master, but seeks companion disciples.**
- 2. God's two gifts of oneness multiply blessing when united, and conflict when made rivals.**
- 3. If we are "the Lord's" deeply, we would seek that first in choosing an intimate partner.**



3. Learn the nature of humanity

**For relational and malleable beings,
influence is everything**

One decision IS another decision..

I want to study from 6 – 8am

I have to get up at 5:50, and need 8hrs sleep

I have to go to bed at 10 sharp

I have to start going to bed at 9:45

I can't start watching TV at 9:30

**Therefore: the decision to watch TV at 9:30 IS THE
DECISION to not study from 6 – 8 am.**



"Look what happened to Solomon"

Nehemiah 13:26

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin.



Predictable results:

Nehemiah 13:24

And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people.



Proverbs 4:23 – 27

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.



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5 Applications

1. Believe discipleship must be comprehensive.
2. Don't willfully misunderstand God's teaching her to avoid it or him.
3. There can be no rival intimate partner in your heart, nor before God.
4. Believe the natural truth.
5. Focus ferocious purity at the fountainheads/springs.



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Matthew 21:6 – 9

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

