

First things first

Nehemiah chapter 10:

Summarize chapter 10:1-27. They sign the covenant of the Law.

Nehemiah 10:28-39

1. Keep and observe all the commandments, ordinances and statutes of the Law.
2. Not give daughters/sons to the people of the land
3. Keep the Sabbath holy
 - a. Not buy any grain on the Sabbath or holy day
 - b. Forego the crops every seventh year (a command of God)
 - c. Exaction of every debt (to not collect debt on the Sabbath)
6. Tithing/Giving to the house of God
7. Sacrifices and commanded giving will be remembered
8. First fruits given to the Lord (Proverbs 3:9)

Consider each change that they were going to make and how that would effect their lives.

What is the "first fruits"?

Everything that the people received as indicated in the passage was to be given to God. They would give or sacrifice the first of their crops to the house of God.

How can we as Christians apply this Old Testament principle to our lives?

As believers are we giving God the best of what we have to give Him? Are we giving to the church? Are we giving first? Is our schedule centered around us or God?

Were the changes that they were committing to small or large?

Amazingly large, they were going to change how they were living from living for themselves to living for God!

Consider these New Testament passages on how we are to be as believers.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome

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you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

1 Peter 2:9-12 "But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR {God's} OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe {them,} glorify God in the day of visitation."

What type of people are we to be as followers of Christ?

Set apart (holy), different in action, children of God, fearing (awe, worship, amazement of Him) God, sharing His Word, aliens and strangers to this world and it's desires, act like believers, above reproach...

How can you know, keep and observe God's Word consistently? What time do you currently spend reading, considering how to apply the Word, and praying for strength to obey God's Word? Consider these passages; Psalm 1:1-3, John 17:17, Psalm 119: 1,2,4,9-11.

What changes do you need to make in your life in order to be the person that God wants you to be and put Him first?

What are the condition of your "walls"? Has anything changed since you began this study? Does this study and the verses we discussed help you in any way with what you are setting out to do for God?