



Trait #11- Looking For Loopholes
Day 1

Read Ezra 9:1-15

What is happening in this passage?

What was it that the people realized they had been sinning in?

Why do you think this was a sin?

Considering the points and thoughts from the sermon Sunday, how do you think a person should respond when found in this situation?

Why did Ezra fast about this situation?

Have you ever fasted over a sin you have seen or done?



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Day 2

Read Ezra 10:1-17

How serious does it appear that this situation was taken?

Why do you think it was such a big deal?

Did it have any effect on their relationship with God?

To be honest, I often find myself very confused when I read this story. The commentary is a great picture of how we should feel about sin, but then I am concerned that in light of other passages in the Bible, that the mass divorce was a proper response to the remorse for the sin. God never really gives us a thumbs up or thumbs down on this behavior.

How do you feel about the outcome of this situation?



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Day 3

Read Romans 6:1-11

Paul is addressing the fact that people are saying Paul teaches that staying in sin actually is piling up a bigger chance for God to display His grace. In other words, the more sin that is forgiven, the greater grace is required. How does Paul address this issue here and what does he say about it?

How is Baptism like burial?

Paul mentions two effects of the resurrection: the immediate and the future. Explain these two effects as Paul does in this passage.

How does one consider himself "dead to sin?"



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Day 4

Read Ephesians 5:1-11

What are the things that Paul tells us to take no part in in verses 3 and 4?

What exactly are these things?

Read verse 6 again. How are we being deceived about these things in our day?

How would we “become partners” with them?

What are some proper ways that we are to expose the “unfruitful works of darkness?”



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Day 5

Sunday was Mission's Sunday.

Take time to pray for our missionaries today. Here is a list of them. Get to know them and ask God how you can reach out to them this week by email, phone, a card, or text.

Heath and Joni Hubbard
Japan

Daryl and Michelle Grimes
Erie, PA

Barry and Jessica Long
Aurora, CO

Why should we want to give to these missionaries?

Is it important that we are a part of planting other churches around the world?

Why?

What are some other things we can do to support and encourage these missionaries?