

“The Slippery Slope”

Ezra 9:1-5

Today's BIG IDEA:

The slippery slope of sin always leads to suffering, and the only exit ramp is repentance.

1. The _____ of sin in the camp (v.1-2)

- God did not forbid the children of Israel from intermarrying with the people of the land because of the _____ of their skin; he forbid it because of the _____ of their heart.

2. The _____ of sin in the camp (v.1-2)

A. _____: Boundaries are pushed, and _____ is ignored (v.1)

B. _____: Standards are adjusted for the sake of _____ (v.2a)

C. _____: Leaders lack _____ and model worldliness instead (v.2b)

D. _____: Sin is swept under the rug without _____ (v.2a)

3. The _____ response to sin in the camp (v.3-5)

A. _____ and _____ (v.3)

B. _____ to the _____ (v.4)

C. _____ _____ down before God (v.5)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- In what categories of sin do you find it easier to compromise? What makes these sins so hard to resist?
- Pastor Matt explained that the same pattern of sin that exists in Ezra 9 can be found elsewhere in Scripture (i.e., Adam and Eve [Genesis 3] and King Solomon [1 Kings 11]). Can you think of any other biblical examples that fit this pattern? How have you seen this pattern in your own life?
- Does Ezra's response to the sin of the people seem a bit extreme to you? Why was he so upset? How does his response compare with our typical response to our sin?