



Life Application Notes

Sunday – 21st^(West End)/28th (Central)

January 2018

Speaker: Chris Kilby **Scripture:** Nehemiah 10

Series/Title: 'For Southampton – A Restored Unity'

Introduction:

Chris began by recognising the increasing amount of division in our city, nation and world.

Questions for discussion:

- What causes division?
- What aspects of division do you most often encounter?

Read together Nehemiah 10:30-39

V30 involves a pledge from the people of God to not inter-marry with the peoples of the neighbouring nations.

- Why would this have been warned against? (clues – idolatry, other gods, compromised worship etc.)
- A New Testament understanding of this is found in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16. Read it together.
- What do these verses say?
- What did this mean for the members of the Corinthian Church?
- What does it mean for believers today?

V31 emphasises the importance of the Sabbath, and keeping it as set apart for worship, the word, and helping others rather than work.

- What is the principle of Sabbath?
- Why is it important?
- In what ways can Sabbath help us to show compassion to those around us?

Verses 32-39 give the full account of the responsibility the people of God assumed with their giving to the work of God.

- How do Old Testament and New Testament principles of giving differ?
- What steps would you like to take to grow in the grace of giving this year?

Pray together for generosity and commitment to see God's kingdom come through our local church. Pray for the elders and trustees who steward our resources. Pray for God's ongoing provision for all our multi-site adventures!



LIFE CHURCH



FOR SOUTHAMPTON

A NEW TEACHING SERIES IN NEHEMIAH FOR 2018

'A Restored Unity'
Nehemiah 10:30-39

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A Restored Unity — Nehemiah 10:30-39

³⁰ “We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons.

³¹ “When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts.

³² “We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God:³³ for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moon festivals and appointed feasts; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God.

³⁴ “We—the priests, the Levites and the people—have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.

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A Restored Unity — Nehemiah 10:30-39

³⁵ “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.

³⁶ “As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there.

³⁷ “Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. ³⁸ A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. ³⁹ The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary are kept and where the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the singers stay.

“We will not neglect the house of our God.”

A TEACHING SERIES IN NEHEMIAH

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A Restored Unity — Nehemiah 10:30-39

Unified in Worship

'We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. When the neighbouring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath' 10:30-31a

Unified in Compassion.

'Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts.' 10:31b

Unified in Commitment.

'We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God.' 10:32

A TEACHING SERIES IN NEHEMIAH

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A Pledge for Restored Unity — Nehemiah 10:30-39

'IN 2018 I PLEDGE TO BE UNIFIED IN WORSHIP — NOT WORSHIPPING FALSE IDOLS, BUT THE ONE TRUE GOD, AND I COMMIT TO BEING A FAITHFUL PART OF A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY HERE AT LIFE CHURCH.'

'IN 2018 I PLEDGE TO BE UNIFIED IN COMPASSION — TO CARE FOR MY NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED.'

'IN 2018 I PLEDGE TO BE UNIFIED IN COMMITMENT — TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE JOYFULLY AND GENEROUSLY TO GOD'S HOUSE SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN SEE GOD'S KINGDOM COME.'

A TEACHING SERIES IN NEHEMIAH