

Confessing Community Sins

Bob McCoy

Introduction: A neglected discipline and a sports parallel...the Bartman ball...

Text: Nehemiah 9 & 10 (selected verses)

Main Idea: Collective confession takes place when God's people agree on three fundamental truths:

- I. God is the Creator – the “Center” of all life
 - 3 ways our culture removes God from His rightful place

Apply – Where do we place God in our view of history?

- II. God is the Covenant-Maker – He “calls” people (back) into relationship
 - A. Patriarchal – Abram – God's people as His servants
 - B. Exodus – Moses – God's people as “saved ones”
 - C. Post-Exilic – Nehemiah – God's people as His “slaves”
 - D. Cycles of evil & deliverance
 - Response – reversal of attitude
 - Reliance – reversal of confidence
 - Rebellion – reversal of obedience
 - Recognition – reversal of vision
 - Repentance – reversal of direction
 - Restoration – reversal of fortune

Apply – Where are we in this same “cycle”?

- III. God's People must confess “their failures” & commit to a new lifestyle
 - A. Personal Relationships – Marriage & Family
 - B. Business Practices – Sabbatical Laws & Finances
 - C. Ritual Practices – “firstborn” & “the house of God”

Apply – How will God be central in our Chapel's life?

Conclusion: A sample “Statement of Corporate Confession