

June 7, 2026

THE FEAR OF GOD

Pastor: [Joel Hess](#) Series: [Come Home](#) Scripture: [Ezra 9:1-15](#)

Chapter Nine – THE FEAR OF GOD

Read [Ezra 9:1-15](#)

Reformation includes repentance. If you don't address sin, it will continue.

It takes courage to rebuke.

The temple was built, but God wants our hearts. When idolatry is prevalent, there will be sexual immorality. A city that drifts from God will make bad decisions. The people of God married spouses who rejected God, and compromise was rampant. False gods were welcomed into homes, and worship was tainted.

We serve a jealous God who will not be manipulated or mocked.

Marriage between two people from different ethnicities or nations is not a sin. But God was clear not to marry someone who worships idols. It was spiritual, not racial. Rejecting Yahweh led to the people's original exile to Babylon. Ezra wanted to make sure his generation didn't repeat those tragedies. Deep burdens lead to depression and fervent prayers. Ezra calls for purity and reverence. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do we regain purity, and what are the sins that we need to confess? ([Ezra 9:1-2](#))
2. How does the unfaithfulness of the people affect Ezra? ([Ezra 9:3-4](#))
3. What are your heartfelt prayers to God? ([Ezra 9:5](#))
4. What does Ezra include in his prayer? ([Ezra 9:6-9](#))
5. What is intercession, and why does Ezra pray about sins he didn't personally commit? ([Ezra 9:10-15](#))
6. Who can you share this Scripture with during the upcoming week?