



**LEADERS ACCEPT GREAT RESPONSIBILITY:
REDEDICATING OUR LIVES TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**

August 28th & 29th, 2010

A HEART CHANGED BY GOD DEMANDS A COMMITMENT TO LIFE CHANGE

"The people responded, 'In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.'"* Nehemiah 9:38

- Exceptional life change only happens because of a personal decision to trust that Jesus died on the cross as our substitute, and the subsequent decision to repent (do a 180) from our old way of life.
 - ✓ Have you made a personal decision to trust Christ and experienced His forgiveness?
- Because of His transformative work in our hearts and minds, we ought to be driven to dedicate, and commit our lives to Christ and his mission.

LEADERS ACCEPT GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.' Luke 9:23

- Exceptional life change is not optional for followers of Christ, it is a responsibility.
- This renewed commitment to life change should encompass our personal lives, our family lives, and our dedication to Christ's work in the church.
 - ✓ How are you doing at modeling dedication to Christ in your private life, with your family, and here at Bethel?

VIRAL LEADERSHIP

"Then the rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, Temple servants, and all who had separated themselves from the pagan people of the land in order to obey the Law of God, together with their wives, sons, daughters, and all who were old enough to understand—joined their leaders and bound themselves with an oath." Nehemiah 10:28-29a

- Leaders should want to model this commitment to life change because it is contagious.
- Ultimately walking and talking this level of commitment to Christ is what discipleship looks like, and it is the best way to help others reach their full potential.

THE POTENTIAL TO EXPERIENCE REAL UNITY

- This level of commitment has the power to produce unity.

Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, 'Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.' Matthew 12:25

- ✓ Are you experiencing unity in your relationships, in your family, and on your volunteer team?

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35

THE POTENTIAL TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S BEST

*"They swore a curse on themselves if they failed to obey the Law of God as issued by his servant Moses. They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the LORD our Lord:"
Nehemiah 10:29b*

- Accepting this responsibility means embracing an uncompromising commitment to learn & live out God's instructions for our lives.
 - This commitment to God's word starts in the privacy of our homes, but peaks as we learn & study the bible together as a church community.
- ✓ When and where are you getting your bible time in?

THE POTENTIAL TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE WORLD

"We promise not to let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, and not to let our sons marry their daughters." Nehemiah 10:30

- God cautions us not to have our most intimate relationships be with unbelievers because the result is inevitably compromise.

*Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?
2 Corinthians 6:14*

- Instead we should seek out people, places, and things that honor God.
- ✓ What are you doing on a regular basis to put you and your family in the best position to honor God?

THE POTENTIAL TO LIVE OUT A LIFE OF WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

"We will store the produce in the storerooms of the Temple of our God. We will bring the best of our flour and other grain offerings, the best of our fruit, and the best of our new wine and olive oil. And we promise to bring to the Levites a tenth of everything our land produces, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our rural towns." Nehemiah 10:37

"We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God." Nehemiah 10:39b

- God wants the first of everything we have to give so that our relationship with Him and the accomplishment of His purpose in His church will become our top priority (Nehemiah 10:35-36).
- Voluntarily giving the best of our time, effort, ability, and money to Christ keeps the desires of our hearts on track.

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Luke 12:34

- ✓ Where is the best of your time, effort, ability, and money going right now?
- ✓ Are ready to reprioritize some of these areas to better reflect your dedication to Christ and His kingdom work?