

Text: Ezra 9:1-15  
Topics: Confession, Grace, Mercy, Sin  
Series: Courage to Trust God's Promises

Monroe Bible Church  
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## What's One Sin?

### I. A Response to the Report of Sin (1-4)

Ezra was appalled when he was made aware of the sin.

Our response to sin reflects our relationship to God!

*Unacceptable > Good relationship*  
*Unconcerned > Not a good relationship*  
*Unaware > No relationship*

### II. A Prayer to God About the Sin (5-15)

Ezra was ashamed to tell God they repeated their sin because...  
*they were just disciplined for it,*  
*God had just showed them so much grace,*  
*he could give no excuse,*  
*so he made no request.*

*Sin we tolerate becomes pain we hate.*  
*God's grace is invitation to come free, not run free.*  
*Excuses don't justify, they multiply.*

God invites us to take advantage of His grace, but not  
to take advantage of His grace.

*Do take advantage of God's grace in salvation!*  
*Don't take advantage of the grace of God's patience?*

Application Questions - *These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.*

1. How do you react when you are made aware of your own sin? Is it different for different kinds of sin? Is it different when someone else points it out? Why?

2. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-6. What were the Israelites told to do, and not to do, when they entered the promised land? Why?

3. What did King Solomon do in 1 Kings 11:1-13 that caused God to be angry with him? What brought this about? What were the consequences going to be? (See also verses 14, 23, and 26)

What principle is being taught in the two passages from questions 2 and 3 above?

What application(s) could be made today for this principle?

What application can be made in your life?

4. Forgiveness of sin is something that cannot be earned, only received through the grace of God. From the following verses and their context, how might the believer misuse this grace? 1 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 5:13; and 1 Peter 2:16.

5. What is Paul trying to help his readers understand in Romans 6:1, 15-19?

What did your "slavery" look like before you became a Christ-follower? What does it look like now?

6. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?