

We Beseech You

Description

Daniel 9:1-8

In Daniel 9, Daniel's prayer, he keeps using the first-person plural pronoun "we." Over and over again, Daniel identifies himself with the sins of his people. Daniel, though he has done nothing wrong personally, asks for forgiveness for things he hasn't done. Daniel's people have sinned and to Daniel, that means he has sinned as well.

There is much debate these days about whether or not sin can be systemic. No matter where one comes down on that particular issue, we see in Daniel's prayer that sin can be corporate. When the people of God sit back idly and at times silently as our respective cultures and societies engage in practices and attitudes that grieve the heart of God, we are liable for those sins as well.

Daniel shows us, though, what our response should be: to humble ourselves, fast, pray, and seek the face of God the Father.

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