

## YOUR CONSCIENCE

### I. **The force of your conscience is that it motivates to do right in every situation.**

- A. Our consciences will always shadow us, it never leaves us.
- B. By right, I mean what is right based on our moral system.
- C. Notice Romans 13:1-5.
  - 1. We obey the government for two reasons Paul says:
    - a. We don't want to suffer the penalty.
    - b. For conscience sake.
  - 2. This shows the triangular nature of life.
    - a. There is my relationship with the government.
    - b. But this is governed by my relationship with God.
    - c. This is present in every aspect of life because every relationship also involves our life with God.
- D. Abraham Lincoln said: "I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me."
- E. When exercised properly, it motivates us to do right in every situation.

### II. **The value of the conscience is that it will change your mind from doing wrong to doing right.**

- A. We must start this point with a caveat - if we let it (James 1:23-24).
- B. Notice John 8:6-9.
  - 1. I don't know what Jesus was writing or why.
  - 2. It may have been to give those men time for their conscience to kick in, which it did.
- C. There are times we all think of doing or saying something wrong.
  - 1. What keeps us from doing or saying it?
  - 2. Our conscience is like a lawyer in a court case who hears his opponent say something out of order and he jumps up and says, "I object."
  - 3. This is what happened in John 8.
- D. A married Christian man had met a woman through business.
  - 1. They ended up flirting and talking.
  - 2. This went on for a while until they decided to meet at a motel.
  - 3. They met at the hotel and while still in the preliminary stages of the physical actions, the Christian man vomited all over the woman.
  - 4. Why? - he did not have a virus, but his conscience kicked in.
- E. No doubt, there have been times where our conscience has kicked in at the last moment to save us from making terrible mistakes and from committing some sin.
- F. We should all thank God for our conscience.

### III. **The joy of our conscience is that it brings peace when we live by it.**

- A. Isaiah 57:20.
  - 1. You ever tried to sleep with a guilty conscience?

- 2. It's a difficult task unless you want it to harden.
  - B. One of the qualifications of a deacon is to hold the faith in a pure conscience (1 Timothy 3:9).
    - 1. He does everything that he can to uphold the truth.
    - 2. At the end of the day, this man knows that he has obeyed the gospel and defended as much as his moral system will allow.
  - C. Again, conscience is a gift from God.
  - D. God wants us to live a certain way because He knows His way will bring about peace in our lives.
  - E. 1 Peter 3:15-16.
- IV. The demand of the conscience is a rapid response.**
- A. Matthew 27:3-5.
    - 1. Judas was through with sin but sin was not through with him.
    - 2. Judas had a conscience - he knew what he had done was wrong and acted quickly.
    - 3. The same with Peter, but with different end results.
  - B. You only have the peace that we mentioned in the last point if the conscience is obeyed quickly.
  - C. One thing that must be remembered is that it does not matter how good our conscience is if we veto it.
  - D. This leads us to our last point.
- V. The threat of the conscience is we can sin so often it won't help us anymore.**
- A. How many times can we deny our conscience in some matter and it finally hardens?
    - 1. God does not make us do right.
    - 2. 1 Timothy 4:1-2 - we can lose our conscience.
  - B. Could you imagine if God took away our conscience - we would always fall because there would be no restraint.
  - C. We have got to exercise our conscience.
  - D. We can get used to anything if we allow ourselves to do so.
    - 1. When we moved into the house my parents still live in, I was not used to airplanes flying over at night.
    - 2. The house is directly under the flight path for Fedex planes that begin their landings at about 9 PM.
    - 3. The first few nights I would go to sleep but one of them would wake me and I would immediately start praying because I thought the Lord may be coming.
    - 4. Even now, I can go back and they don't bother me one bit.
  - E. The conscience works the same way.
  - F. Luke 10 contains the parable of the Good Samaritan.
    - 1. Which of the three lived a happier life?
    - 2. God's way allows for man to live a happy life.

From a sermon by Glenn Colley