

THE CONSCIENCE

10/5/15

Everyone has a conscience: the sense of right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions. This varies from person to person with parental and family input shaping the majority of values, followed by education and society inputs. Collectively this generates a moral compass to determine what is good and what is bad. Just as our body has nerve endings that signal our brain when things are wrong, ie., hot, cold, pain, etc.,. Our conscience acts like nerve endings in the areas of the working of the mind... from which our life morals are formed. To give you an example... when I say 'smoking, drinking, lying, lazy, road rage, prayer, reading, fellowship, etc.,' Those parts of your conscience which are negatively affected, light up at the mention of certain words, but not all of them. This is a simple demonstration of our conscience at work. It also helps determine what choices we make, when personal gain or desire clash with our values. Our conscience offers a value and our mind may try and find an escape clause... the choice reveals our integrity.

Every person is born with the basics of a Godly conscience. JOH 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. When it comes to the topic of God and His plan for humanity (the gospel), all start with an inbuilt conscience at birth, no matter who we are or how raised.

Further enlightenment. ROM 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear** without a preacher? Our testimony and witnessing opens the door for the conscience of others to change, grow and respond.

The Holy Spirit expands the conscience of God within us. 1COR 2:16 For who hath known **the mind** of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have **the mind** (the conscience) of Christ. Thus, being preached to by God's people, opens up further areas of the conscience that we never knew existed. Even better than this, the Spirit and the people of God working together, develop our conscience to levels that are effectively full of usable power, but that are naturally impossible. **JOH 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into **all truth**: A truly remarkable and effective source of power, motivation and comfort.

Biblical examples of God pricking the conscience. ACT 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were **pricked in their heart** (the power of God at work), and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? These people had their sense of right and wrong challenged and reacted correctly.

Saul had rejected the pricking to his conscience for quite a while. ACT 26:14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? *it is hard* for thee to **kick against the pricks**. It was difficult for him to reject Godliness, as it is for people who have a conscience towards right and wrong. That is why we keep preaching; to the saved, the fallen and the unsaved, alike (the predators we avoid): it is hard for their conscience sake to resist the word of God... he keeps pricking every time words are spoken and actions are observed.

We preach, God pricks... they react. ACT 26:18 To **open their eyes, and** to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Our preaching is effective, no matter what the result may seem.

Unscriptural services corrupts the conscience. 1TIM 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience seared** with a hot iron; *Religious pride also kills a healthy conscience.*

At a personal level, we should light up more with positive words, than we do with negative ones. HEB 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an **evil conscience**, and our bodies washed with pure water. This equally requires a commitment to self discipline, spiritual mentoring and good and faithful shepherding.

The choice is always yours to make. PRO 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. A good conscience is built upon spiritual truths and the willingness to keep refining our attitudes, as our wisdom and experience grows. Every choice we make, adds to God's conscience or adds to the worlds... as there is no middle ground... no fence to sit on. It's always in your power and ability to make your own choice.

Neither God nor Satan has ever made anyone do anything against their will... it has always been a matter of the conscience!!