



Trait #13- Living Inconsiderate Of Weak Believers
Day 1

The conscience: an inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior. (The oxford dictionary definition)

The conscience: sense of right and wrong, arguments of reason/ condemning or approving thoughts (Amp. bible definition

As you can see, the definitions of the conscience from a secular and Christian point of view are very similar, yet different. The conscience according to scripture is God's voice put within us (as a "gift" to mankind) calling us to Him.

This "gift" of the conscience was enhanced with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 (*33,34)

Romans 1:18-21

So in essence our conscience is God's law written in our hearts (even unbelievers), "for when the gentiles who have not the law do instinctively what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, since they do not have the law ("therefore they stand without excuse" Romans 1:20, "because what may be known of God is already manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.." Romans 1:19) "They show that the essential requirements of the Law are written in their hearts and are operating there, with which their consciences, also bear witness and their moral decisions will accuse or perhaps defend and excuse them on that day when, as my gospel proclaims, God by Jesus Christ will judge men in regard to the things which they conceal" (their hidden thoughts)

Read Ecclesiastes 12:14;

In the upcoming days we will talk more on this and show what this has to do with "living inconsiderate of others". I thought it first important to show what scripture says about the conscience.



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Day 2

Yesterday we learned what the conscience is. Can you think of a time when you were convicted by your conscience?

Can you, like Elijah, hear that still small voice? Read 1 Kings 19:9-13;

Our experiences may not be as dramatic as that of Elijah, but that still small voice lives in each one of us. It might come in the form of a "gut feeling " or a sense of something not being right. Often times we even miss this still small voice (our own conscience). This can happen in different ways. Like in Romans 1:2, it can happen by suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (repeated acts of sin). It can happen by having the "cares of this world " (the daily pressures of life, marriage, finances, kids etc.) being our central focus rather than looking to heaven, or it can simply happen by not spending time in prayer or reading His Word. (remember we grow from faith to faith, and faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word).

So, why is it so important to have a "clear conscience" of our own and at the same time being careful not to "offend" someone else's conscience?

Because your conscience (that inner moral voice, your perspective, or minds eye) is the lamp of the body.

Read Matthew 6:19-23; Remember the devotions on the progression of sin based off Romans chapter 1?

Read Ephesians 4:17-19; "... having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness". Yes, it is possible to snuff out that still small voice, through rejection of the truth and continuous sin! This is why it is imperative that we keep our conscience clear and look out for our brother or sisters' as well. For this is what love is (according to 1 Cor. 13) and the greatest commandment.. love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself.



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Day 3

Now lets take a walk through 1 Corinthians 8;

verse 1: Some of the Christians at Corinth were in the habit of attending feasts held in pagan temples in honor of idols. They said that this wasn't wrong because they "had knowledge" that idols were nothing. This knowledge they had made them think they were better than Christians who did not understand this. Therefore they boasted about this fact. In verses 1b- 3, Paul begins his correction of them. *note: Animals were offered as sacrifices in pagan temples, the unused meat was either sold in the market places or provided as food during public feasts.

vs. 2; " he knows nothing yet as he ought", Unless knowledge leads us to love others, we know nothing about God (1 Cor.13)

vs' 4,5; "for even if there are so called gods....(as there are many gods and many lords)". Here he is speaking of the demons worshiped "behind" the idol...see 1 Cor. 10:20-22

vs. 6; read: Colossians 1:15-18

vs' 7-9; Paul corrects the Corinthians train of thought by basically saying instead of ridiculing the weak believer (and thinking you are better than them) be an example and don't allow your liberty (or freedom in this matter, knowing that you are neither better off if you do eat or worse off if you don't eat because food doesn't commend us to God) to be a stumbling block to the weaker believer.

vs' 10-13; basically, live in love and think of your brother/ don't do anything that might cause him/her to stumble (sin against their conscience). For the conscience is to be kept pure and undefiled, because it's God's internally built "walkie-talkie" to the believer.

Can you think of a liberty or freedom of yours that might be a stumbling block to someone else? Remember, what is a sin to one person, might not be a sin to you.....some things are a matter of the conscience. For further clarification on anything, including what is written in the devotions, don't hesitate to see Pastor Tom, or Pastor Nate.



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Day 4

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16;

Here it says we are to be an example, and to watch our life and doctrine closely. Why? For in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you (and see you). Remember; you never know who's paying attention to your actions!

Can you think of something in your life that might cause someone to stumble?

I'm going to take chapter 8 a step further (it's speaking of mature Christians watching what they do around weak Christians) and include non Christians.. Do people at your workplace know your a Christian? Do these same people see/hear you professing one thing and acting a different way? We need to be very careful of this.

Lets read 1 Corinthians 13 again.

Evaluate yourself today. Do you think you put others spiritual well-being ahead of your wants?

Paul said if eating meat was detrimental to his "brother" he would not eat meat again. Can you say the same thing?

Now, I'm supposing you read 1 Cor. 13 again. Pick the traits of love out that you feel you possess.

Now pick the traits of love out that you lack. To gain something that you lack might take work, but with God's help it can be attained.



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Day 5

We as Christian brothers and sisters are called to live in harmony with one another. Our solid foundation being Christ and Love. For it is upon this foundation that God builds His Church (The dwelling place of God in the Spirit).

Read Ephesians 4:15-16; "... for the edifying of itself in love".

So we are called to live in love. Therefore, doing something that would cause one of our brothers or sisters to stumble (fall into sin, 'even sin against the conscience'), is something we desperately need to avoid.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-2; "... commending ourselves to every man's conscience".