

Living with your conscience

Church in the Community part 8

1 Corinthians 8

1. What is your conscience?

“Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.” Romans 2:14-15

Paul’s description: Compared to a witness

“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!” Matthew 6:22-23

Jesus description: Compared to a window

2. What are the different kinds of conscience?

- i. Weak
- ii. Strong
- iii. Defiled
- iv. Evil
- v. Pure
- vi. Clear/good

3. How do I develop a healthy conscience?

- i. Educate it by learning God’s Word

*“Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue.” 1 Corinthians 8:1
“However, not all believers know this.” 1 Corinthians 8:7a*

- ii. Exercise it by living out God’s values each day

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” James 1:22-25

“For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. ¹⁴ Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” Hebrews 5:13-14

4. What are the actions of a mature believer with a strong conscience?

- i. Think of others

“So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.” 1 Cor 8:9

“I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don’t just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.” 1 Cor 10:33

- ii. Be loving to weaker believers

“But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.” 1 Cor 8:1