



Pastor's Comments

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Conscience & Conviction

“Conscience,” said an Indian, “is a three-cornered thing in my heart that stands still when I am good, but when I am bad, it turns around and **the corners hurt a lot. If I keep on doing wrong, the corners wear off and it does not hurt anymore!**” God created conscience within our spirit. The Holy Spirit affects our conscience to bring **conviction of sin.**

Conviction is the act of convincing or compelling one to admit the truth of a charge. It is the state of being sensible of guilt and was experienced after the first sin, “And they heard the voice of the LORD God...and Adam and his wife **hid themselves**...And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and **I was afraid**” (Gen. 3:8-10). David felt it, “For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an **heavy burden**...my sin is ever before me” (Ps. 38:4; 51:3). The scribes and Pharisees felt it when Jesus said, “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone...And they which heard it, **being convicted by their own conscience,** went out one by one” (John 8:3-11). Felix felt it, “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix **trembled**” (Acts 24:25). Peter felt it, “and **wept bitterly**” (Matt. 26:75).

When people can **sin without feeling remorse,** they are living in a **dreadful state!** “Who **being past feeling** have given themselves over unto lasciviousness” (Eph 4:19). Those who continue in sin and reject Holy Spirit conviction may **tragically** find themselves **no longer convicted.** God warns, “My spirit shall **not always strive** with man” (Gen. 6:3). This is why the worst sinners sometimes **feel the least sinful!** They have “their **conscience seared**” (I Tim. 4:2).

If you are being convicted of sin **respond in full repentance** to God. Luther said, “The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation.” Believe Jesus took your sin upon Himself at the cross. Accept God’s forgiveness. But, **make sure your repentance is total!** Don’t be like the man who wrote the IRS stating: “I can’t sleep; my conscience is bothering me. Enclosed find a check for \$50. If I still can’t sleep, I’ll send you the balance!”

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