



The Conscience Question

WEEK FIVE

What do I call my internal warning system? _____

The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep on going and pay the penalty.

Proverbs 27:12 (NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When I follow God's will, I will have no regrets.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

When there is a tension in my conscience, I am wise to pay attention.

My conscience is where I am most self-aware, where I judge right from wrong, and where I listen for God's will.

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, ¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

It is God's will that I respond to His voice and truth so I will explore and not ignore the tension in my conscience.

³ He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. ⁴ The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." ⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

⁸ Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. ⁹ He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?" ¹⁰ This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.' ¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹² May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. ¹³ As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

¹⁴ "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?" ¹⁵ May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

1 Samuel 24:3-15 (NIV)

- **A reason we ignore the tension in our conscience is that we think we can predict the future.**
- **Disappointments are tied to unexpected outcomes.**
- **Often it is in the tension that the Holy Spirit is leading me.**



The Conscience Question

WEEK FIVE

Is there a tension that demands my attention?

- When I am tempted and there's a tension, I need to pay attention. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Regardless of the source, when someone points out something and there's a tension, I need to explore it, not ignore it.
- When you are under pressure to make a decision and something bothers your conscience, pause even if you don't know the cause, and explore the tension.

SERIES BIG PRAYER:

Father, I want Your will more than I want my way. Show me Your will for today.

MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Have you ever felt a check in your spirit that stopped you from doing something that you knew wasn't for the best? Have you ever been compelled to stop and reconsider and the second decision turned out for the best?

When we are following Jesus that tug, that compulsion, that nudge is God, as the Holy Spirit, guiding us.

When we have a check in our spirit it is imperative that we stop and pay attention because the guidance of the Holy Spirit will never lead us outside of God's will.

We can't control the future, we can't control the present, we can only control our response to God and His guidance.

So stop and explore that tug and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to discern what He has for you in the moment.

TALK IT OVER:

What is an area in your life that you are trying to control even when you know that your way isn't the best way?

Do you trust that God has your best interest at heart and that He can and will guide you through the Holy Spirit? What stops you from following His will?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who is someone you need to tell about this?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

- Day 1) Galatians 5: 16-17
- Day 2) Proverbs 4:20-27
- Day 3) 1 Peter 1:13-16
- Day 4) 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Day 5) John 14:15-21
- Day 6) Proverbs 2:1-15