

THE ROLE OF MY CONSCIENCE

SERIES: Living in the Presence of God #8

Sunday, May 30, 2021

JOINING OUR NEW FAMILY.

1. Salvation - joining this new family - is a FAMILY affair.

2. Salvation - joining this new family - is through a PERSON, not a system.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB) *But by His [God the Father] doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...*

3. Salvation - joining this new family - deals with ALL our sins.

4. Salvation - joining this new family - brings PLEASURE to God the Father.

Ephesians 1:5 (NASB) *"In love He [God the Father] predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention [good pleasure] of His will."*

The Critical Question:

"If God is having such a good time, then why aren't we enjoying ourselves as much as God?"

UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE OF THE CONSCIENCE.

1. THE POWER OF AN ILL-TAUGHT CONSCIENCE.

Context of 1 Corinthians 8:

1 Corinthians 8:7 *"However not all men have this knowledge [that there is only one God and that idols are nothing]; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled [they are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol]."*

1 Corinthians 8:8 *"But food will not commend us [bring us near] to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. ⁹ But take care lest this liberty of yours [the exercise of your freedom in eating meat offered to idols] somehow becomes a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?"*

1 Corinthians 8:11 *"For [inevitably] through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹² And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ."*

¹³ *Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble [if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin - scandalizes, causes one to trip over and smash himself], I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.”*

Three things will happen when a person’s conduct is out of harmony with his or her unconscious belief system:

- Their spiritual effectiveness will be RUINED.
- Their conscience will be WOUNDED.
- They will be SCANDALIZED. A powerful emotional response devastates this individual because his or her weak Christianity has contradicted their unconscious beliefs.

The conscience, then, is the DOORWAY to or GUARDIAN of our powerful unconscious beliefs.

Our unconscious is a REPOSITORY of deeply held (although seldom examined) beliefs.

2. THE NEED FOR A CONFIDENT CONSCIENCE.

Hebrews 10:19 *“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence [free and easy speaking] to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated [opened] for us through the veil that is His flesh...”*

Hebrews 10:21 *“... and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near [be entering] with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith [the fullness of positive feelings, which come from faith]...”*

Hebrews 10:22b *“... having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil [maliciously evil] conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for the one who promised is faithful.”*

in the book of Hebrews, the conscience was “evil” because its _____ of judgment was a “Christ + works” religion.

Hebrews 10:1 (NASB) *“For the law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices year by year which they offer, continually make perfect those who draw near.”*

Hebrews 6:1 (NASB) *“Therefore leaving the elementary teachings about the Christ, the Messiah, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works.”*

Hebrews 10:3 *“But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”*

Hebrews 10:10 *“By this will [the will of Christ and His sacrifice] we have been sanctified [set apart] through the offering of the body of Jesus the Messiah once for all. ... ¹⁴ For by one offering He has made perfect for all time those that are set apart. ... ¹⁹ Now where there is forgiveness of these things there is no longer any offering for sin [as in animal sacrifice].”*

Any formula that says acceptance by God is by Christ plus **ANYTHING** else is proclaiming that His death was not enough. This is an evil conscience!

Hebrews 10:26 *“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins [because there is only one sacrifice] ²⁷ but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of fire which will consume the adversaries.”*

CLEANSING OUR HEART

Hebrews 10:28 *“Anyone who set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much greater punishment do you think you will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which He was sanctified and has insulted the spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who has said, ‘Vengeance is mine I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’”*

ACTION STEPS:

- Commit to sitting down and writing out the things that you “do” in order to make yourself feel acceptable to God. This may take some time because we’ve made some excellent “excuses” for doing these things.
- Ask the Father to give you a greater enjoyment in your relationship with Him. Ask Him to remind you that the work of Christ on the cross is enough!