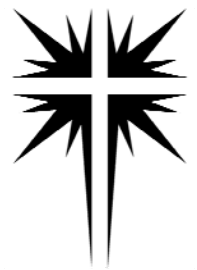


SESSION 4 – “Shaping Your Child’s Conscience”



I. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

A. Our God given conscience is the source of moral integrity and living

B. In the O.T.

1. Means the _____ (I Samuel 16:7)
2. David’s heart was cut because he trimmed Saul’s robe (I Samuel 24:5)
3. David’s heart bothered him because he numbered the people due to lack of faith (II Samuel 24:10)
4. Proverbs 23:7- “As a man thinketh in his heart so is he”

C. In the N.T.

1. Paul lived in all good conscience (Acts 23:1)...means he knew he pleased God, i.e. his heart had _____ with God (Isaiah 26:3-4)
2. The conscience can be seared or killed (I Timothy 4:2) by refusing light (Matthew 15:3-9)
3. The conscience can be cleansed from _____ by coming to Jesus (Hebrews 10:22; I John 1:9)
4. The conscience could be called “the eye of God in the soul of man”

D. How the conscience works

1. The lower conscience
 - a. Sense of right from _____ (Ro. 2:15), so man is without excuse
 - b. God’s thumbprint of ownership reminds us we are made in His image, which was not TOTALLY destroyed in the fall of Adam
 - c. Man’s _____ resides here (Genesis 3:10b) – Adam hid, knowing he was naked
 - d. Our fear of rejection, sense of impending judgment, and accountability reside here (Genesis 3:1)
 - e. **KEY***** - The conscience awakens the law in our hearts written by God at conception
2. The higher conscience
 - a. This is a clean blank slate the parents write on as they teach children the moral values of absolute truth (Proverbs 22:6; John 8:32)
 - b. Meditation and memorization are keys as you _____ the vulnerability points of your children (Joshua 1:8-9; Psalm 119:9, 11)
 - c. God will enlarge the hearts of well trained children to run in His paths (119:32)

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- d. This conscience is a moral picture of the parents daily living (Luke 6:40; I Corinthians 11:1)
 - i. Reap as sow
 - ii. Galatians 6:7



II. THE BIBLICAL APPLICATIONS

- A. The higher conscience will be _____ thru the pain of discipline in a younger child, up to age 3 primarily, knowing pain is God’s holy purifier (Proverbs)
 - 1. _____, the swatting of the behind, or the smacking of the hand, teaches “don’t do that”
 - 2. Very young children are not ready for abstract reasons, and need concrete “pain” to reinforce truths for harmony in the home
- B. The 3 yr. old + can handle “mom said no!”, as you begin to move to training the higher conscience with moral teachings from scripture, as the child _____ to obey out of love for parents, whom he knows love him (John 14:15, 21, 23)
 - 1. The child will find more “attractive” pleasing his parents, and the positive affirmation therein, rather than the swat to get him to obey anyway.
 - 2. Moral motivation is more powerful because it’s inspired by _____, rather than the fear of _____, which eventually builds up a pool of moral values within the child.
 - 3. **REMEMBER** unconditional love motivates godly behavior, as children experience forgiveness, which always leads to healing biblically and behaviorally
 - a. Holy love builds _____ in the family, knowing where you belong (Ephesians 1:3)
 - b. This acceptance builds confidence in who you are in Christ (II Timothy 1:7, 12)
 - 4. **HOWEVER**, _____ love creates guilt manipulation, and consequently creates a manipulative, self-centered child and adult in time
- C. A child who is **ONLY** trained by pain rather than the progression to teaching moral values will only respond by fear, which eventually leads to situation ethics, “what can I get away with, with minimal pain?”, rather than “what is right”?
- D. Abusive, unloving parents will create a child who only knows _____, and will always make decisions based on false guilt, fearful of displeasing anyone, which is called **SUBJECTIVE GUILT**, some symptoms of which are...
 - 1. When someone wants to talk with you, you get nervous, wondering what you did wrong.
 - 2. If 10 people told you that you did a good job, and 1 told you that you didn’t, you’d focus on the critic.
 - 3. Going to church out of fear that God will be angry with your absence

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4. You fear losing your child's love when you spank him.
 5. You're always the one who apologizes to "_____" the conflict
- E. Godly parents allow God's Spirit to use OBJECTIVE GUILT, which is real biblical guilt that comes from crossing moral boundaries of absolute truth (Col. 3:15-16).
- F. Verses to help with conscience development (from Proverbs)...teach your children it is far more important to be _____, than it is to be _____...KEY!!!!!!!
1. Hatred stirs up strife (10:12)
 2. A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (15:1)
 3. He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from _____ (21:23)
 4. Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him (26:4)
 5. A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back (29:11)
- G. The damaged conscience needs healing (Matthew 11:28-30)
1. God _____ heals broken, bitter hearts completely (Psalm 147:3)
 - a. Heal means to "stitch"...God's stitches are:
 - i. Truth (John 8:32; Jeremiah 29:11-13)
 - ii. Forgiveness...east from west...infinity!
 - (a) Must be _____...understand the cross!
 - (b) Must be accepted (John 1:12)...freedom to _____
 - iii. Friendship (Proverbs 17:17)
 - (a) At home...haven of rest and love
 - (b) At church...healing community
 - b. The healing tool is the "balm of Gilead" – Jeremiah 8:22
 2. God, not time, is the Healer (Jeremiah 17:14)
 - a. Saints will NEVER experience the ultimate rejection in life, HELL
 - b. Saints who have been betrayed a lot in life will need to _____ themselves against not trusting ANYONE, in order to protect themselves from further hurt
 - c. Time does not heal because we eventually have reminders of the events
 - i. Dreams
 - ii. Seeing the betrayer
 - iii. Hearing their name
 3. The FRB principle
 - a. _____...bitter parents cannot teach kids conflict resolution and thus how to have a clear conscience
 - b. Release to God...vengeance is mine...(Romans 12:19)
 - c. Bless...ask God to _____ the person who hurt you (Romans 12:21)

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