

Do Christians agree about whether something is right or wrong?

What are some examples?

Agreements among Christians

8/10 Commandments:

- Worship God alone
- No idols
- Honor God's name
- Obey your parents
- Don't commit adultery
- Don't murder
- Don't steal
- Don't covet
- And more.

Some disagreements among Christians

2/10 Commandments:

• Keeping the Lord's Day (working versus resting)

• Lying

- Going to the movie theatre
- Playing cards
- Harry Potter, Pokémon, SpongeBob
- Dungeons & Dragons
- R-rated movies
- Rock n' roll (AC DC, drums, minor notes, saxophone)

More disagreements among Christians

- Halloween
- Fast food
- Drinking alcohol (no root "beer")
- Vaccines (using parts from aborted babies)
- Birth control
- Tattoos
- Yoga
- Crystals
- Modesty (dress length, showing the belly, etc.)

Still more disagreements among Christians

- Dating / courtship ("How far is too far?")
- Dancing in church
- Bible translations
- Church denominations
- Fair trade coffee
- Using anything "Devil" (Tasmanian Devil, Dirt Devil, Deviled Eggs)
- Smoking
- And many, many more.

Painting the Conscience



Service States and Frite

•Romans 14:1-4

WE HAVE NEVER FOUND A CAVE PAINTING OF A SALAD



What Paul says about opinions...

- Opinions exist.
- Opinions are a part of faith (beliefs).
- Christians are called "weak" or "strong" in their faith (opinions).
- Since opinions exist, Christians must see (or paint) black, white, and gray areas.

• BLACK:

something is <u>wrong</u> for everyone. 3 PAINT COLORS

• GRAY (OPINION):

something is <u>wrong</u> for one person but <u>right</u> for another person. • WHITE:

something is <u>right</u> for everyone.

EXTREME PAINTING

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EXTREME PAINTING

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•Romans 14:5-12

What Paul says about opinions...

- •Think BIG.
- Don't be a parrot: think/talk for yourself.
- Wait to paint something black, white, or gray until you're fully convinced in your own mind.

BIG IDEA

•God wants His servants to keep opinions to opinions.

LIFE CHANGE

•Welcome believers who have different opinions, but not to argue.

• Paint black, white, and gray areas.







Painting the Conscience



Carlos A. L. S. F. H.

Series Recap

• Welcome believers who have different opinions, but not to argue.

• Paint white, black, and gray areas.

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Series Recap

•God wants His servants to keep opinions to opinions.

ON DECK

•How do we know whether something is black, white, or gray?

In other words, "Is something a sin (black), not a sin (white), or an opinion (gray)?"

Is this a sin? Gray Area?

- <u>First</u>, know what sin is. (1 John 3:4 – sin is lawlessness).
- <u>Second</u>, know God's laws. (paint black and white areas).
- <u>Third</u>, identify opinions. (paint gray areas).

What is sin?

•Romans 5:13

•1 John 3:4

Romans 2:14-16

- What is the conscience?
- Conflicting thoughts that <u>accuse</u> or <u>excuse</u> someone.
- Prepares someone for God's judgement.

What is the conscience? (Pt. 1)

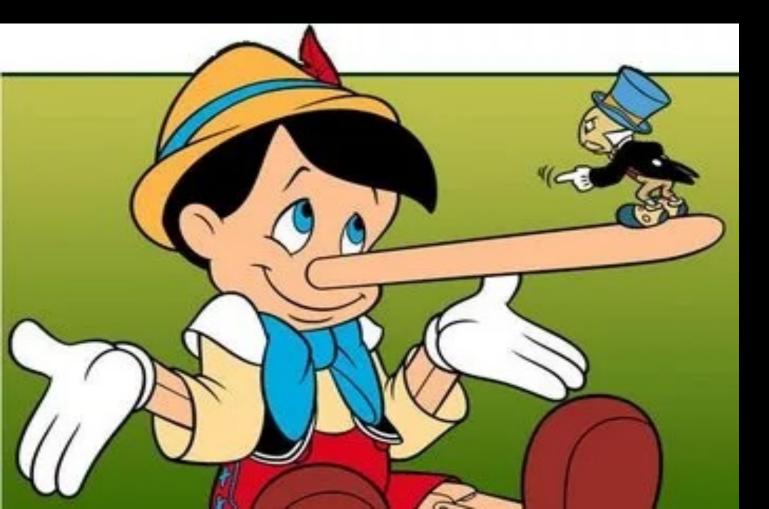
•The conscience is a gift to us from God. It reveals to us God's law (what is right and what is wrong) before judgment day.

What the conscience is not



Angel voice and demon voice speaking in your mind

What the conscience is not



A voice that only says, "you're guilty, stop it!"

Romans 14:22-23

"faith" -what you believe and do

outside faith

inside faith

Romans 14:22-23

• God is our only Judge, not other believers.

• M.Y.O.F. - Mind Your Own Faith (inside faith).

It's good for you to do your own faith.

It's <u>sin</u> for you to not do your own faith.

BIG IDEA

- The goal of the conscience
- Hebrews 9:14

"The **guilt** that your conscience makes you feel should lead you to **turn from your sin to Jesus**. God gave you that sense of guilt for your good." -Andy Naselli

Life Change

• Obey your conscience and turn to Jesus.

Painting the Conscience



Carlos States States

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

• Paul changes the topic.

• Everyone has knowledge, but not everyone has the same quantity of knowledge.

• Love > Knowledge.

1 Corinthians 8:4-8

• What knowledge does Paul have?

Is every conscience the same?

 When Paul says "weak faith" (Romans 14), he means "weak conscience" (1 Corinthians 8).

1 Corinthians 8:4-8

What is a "weak" conscience/faith?

• A "weak" conscience is a conscience that lacks knowledge about a certain topic. It's misinformed.

What is a "strong" conscience/faith?

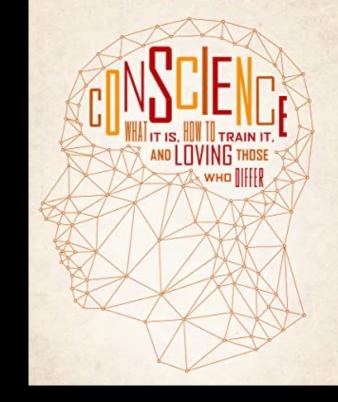
1 Corinthians 8:4-8

- A strong conscience has knowledge.
- A weak conscience is misinformed.

"Weak" vs. "seared" conscience

"... The weakened conscience usually is hypersensitive and overactive about issues that are not sins. Ironically, a weak conscience is more likely to accuse than a strong conscience. Scripture calls this a weak conscience because it is **too easily wounded**. People with weak consciences tend to fret about things that should provoke no guilt in a *mature Christian who* knows God's truth."

–John MacArthur



What is the conscience? (Pt. 2)

• "The conscience is <u>your</u> consciousness of what <u>you</u> believe is right or wrong at <u>any given point or time</u>". -Andy Naselli

• "con" = "with" + "science" = "knowledge"

BIG IDEA

• Gray areas show that sin is a sinister, complex problem in the universe.

Life Change

• Believers show Jesus' love by knowing whether a gray area is a sin for each other.

Painting the Conscience



Service States and hits

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Can the conscience change?

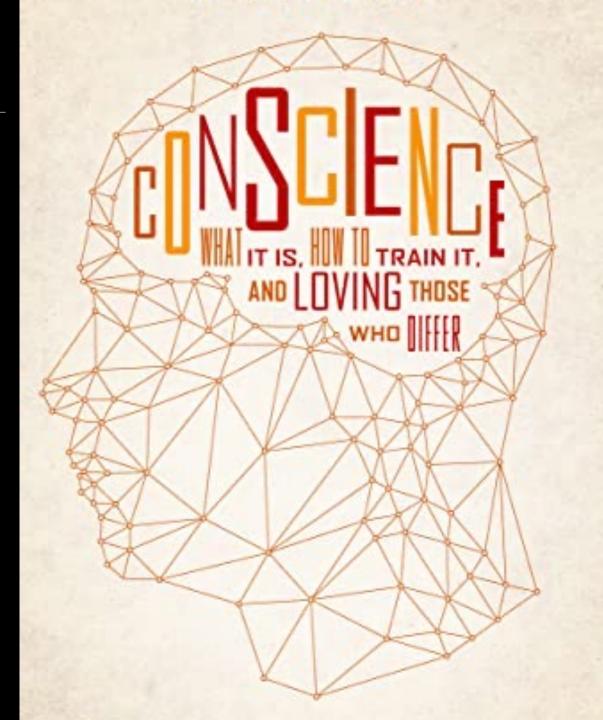
• Truth in God's Word:

• Acts 10:9-16

 God's Word must always inform our conscience.

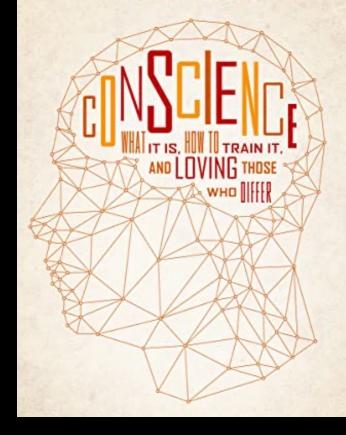
The conscience can be...

- 1 Timothy 1:5 | <u>Good</u>
- Hebrews 9:14 | <u>Cleansed</u>
- 1 Timothy 3:9 | <u>Clear</u>



The conscience can be...

- 1 Corinthians 8:7 | weak/uninformed
- Titus 1:15 | <u>corrupted</u>
- Hebrews 10:22 | <u>evil/guilty</u>
- 1 Timothy 4:1-4 | <u>seared</u>



Can the conscience change?

• Truth in God's World:

• Discovering truth can change our beliefs and therefore our own conscience (i.e. Harry Potter).

Can the conscience change?

• Truth in God's World:

• Some people can seriously damage their conscience little by little.



Adolf Eichmann

"In his testimony throughout the trial, Eichmann insisted <u>he had no choice but to follow orders</u>, as he was bound by an oath of loyalty to Hitler.

As a clear decision to exterminate (the Jews) had been made by his superiors, the matter was out of his hands; <u>he felt absolved of any guilt.</u>

"I will leap into my grave laughing because the feeling that I have five million human beings (the Jews) <u>on my conscience</u> is for me a source of extraordinary satisfaction" -Eichmann

He was deemed responsible for the dreadful conditions on board the deportation trains and for obtaining Jews to fill those trains." - Wikipedia

Calibrating the conscience

• <u>First</u>, look to God's truth found in His Word.

• <u>Second</u>, look to God's truth found in His world.

BIG IDEA

• Train your conscience in God's truth found in His Word and His world.



Maybe it's not a "house" rule. But when I

was six my mom told me that if a

behaved she would let me skip school on

Saturdays and Sundays. One day my

teacher said "see ya Monday" and I knew

secretagentsquirrel1 27.3k points • 16 hours ago

We weren't allowed to walk in our dining

room unless we were using the room for

a special occasion. The carpet always

had that "just vacuumed" look so it was a

dead giveaway if anyone walked across

Painting the Conscience



Carlos A. L. S. F. H.

1 Corinthians 8:9-13



• BLACK:

something is <u>wrong</u> for everyone.



(OPINION / FAM RULES): something can be <u>wrong</u> (sin) for one person but <u>right</u> for another person. •Obey your parents even when your conscience is different than theirs.

•Painting can hurt others.

