

Painting the Conscience

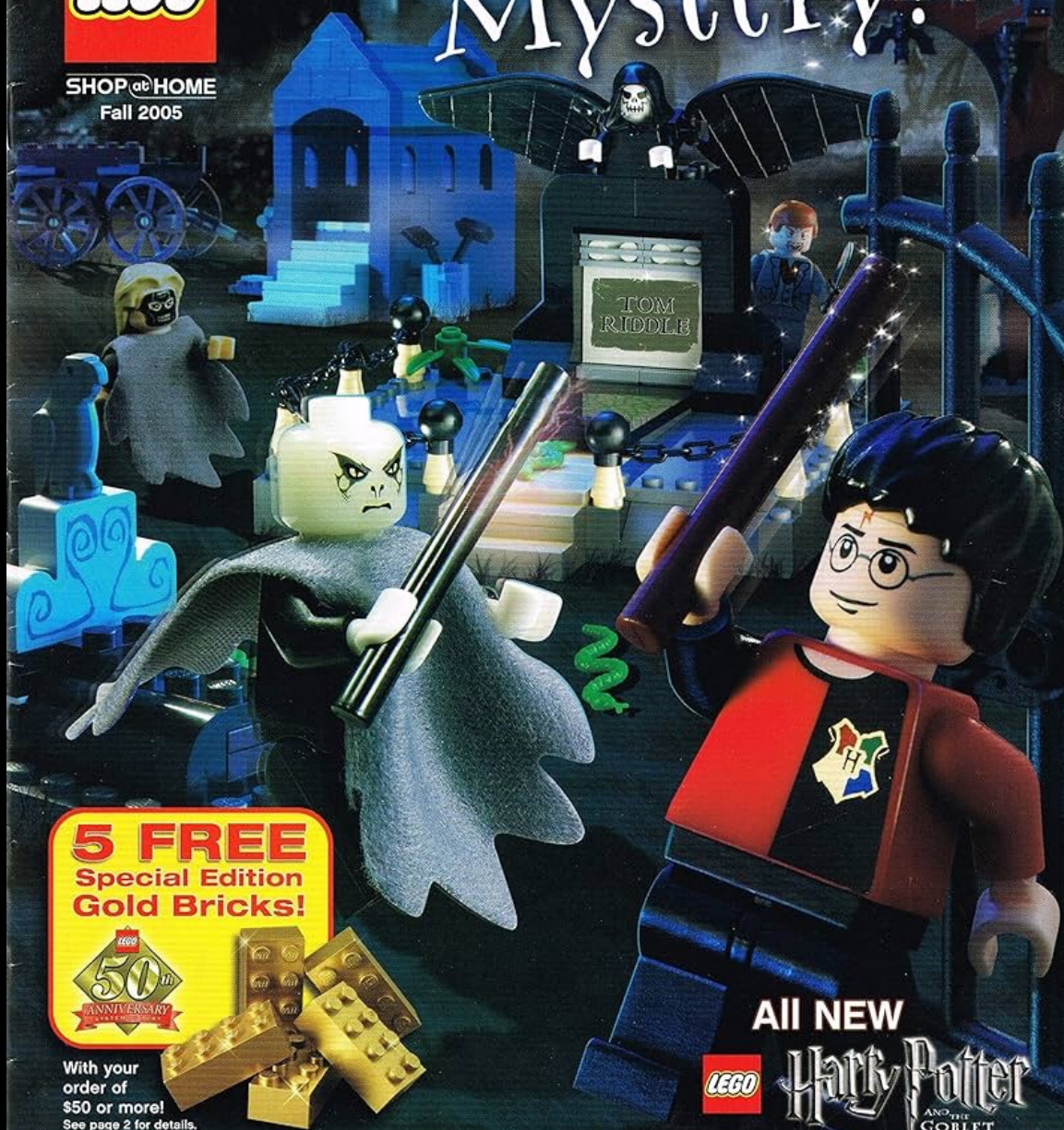


Session 1:
Painting &
Welcoming



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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.

- 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.

3 PAINT COLORS

- BLACK:

something
is wrong
for everyone.

- GRAY (OPINION):

something
is wrong
for one person
but right
for another person.

- WHITE:

something
is right
for everyone.

EXTREME PAINTING

- BLACK:

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is wrong
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- WHITE:

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EXTREME PAINTING

- GRAY (OPINION):

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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



Session 2:

What is

the conscience?







Series Recap I

- *Welcome believers who have different opinions, but not to argue.*
- *Paint white, black, and gray areas.*

3 PAINT COLORS

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Series Recap I

- *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?

- First, know what sin is.
(1 John 3:4 – sin is lawlessness).
- Second, know God's laws.
(paint black and white areas).
- Third, 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 accuse or excuse 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 sin 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



Session 3:

What is

the conscience?

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?

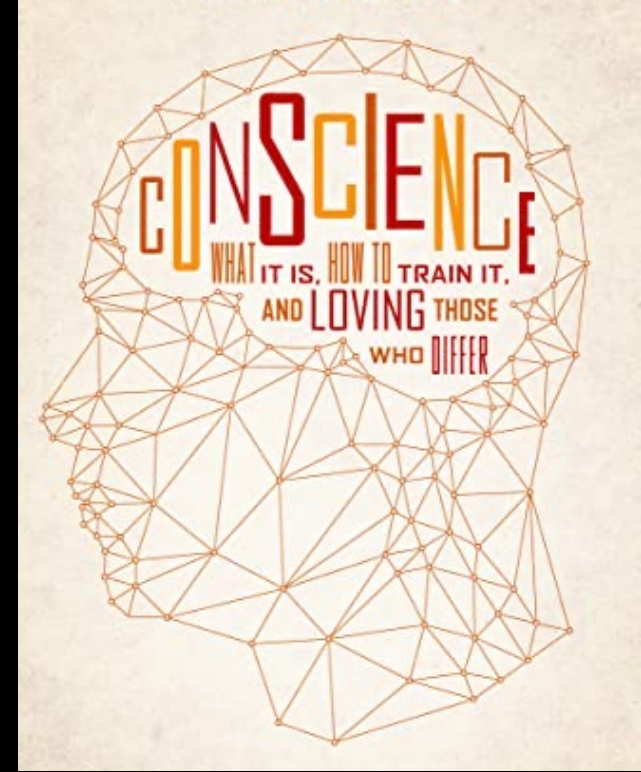
1 Corinthians 8:4-8

- 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 your consciousness of what you believe is right or wrong at any given point or time”. -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



Session 4:

Calibrating

the conscience

3 PAINT COLORS

- BLACK:

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for everyone.

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for one person
but right
for another person.

- WHITE:

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Series Recap

- *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.*

Series Recap

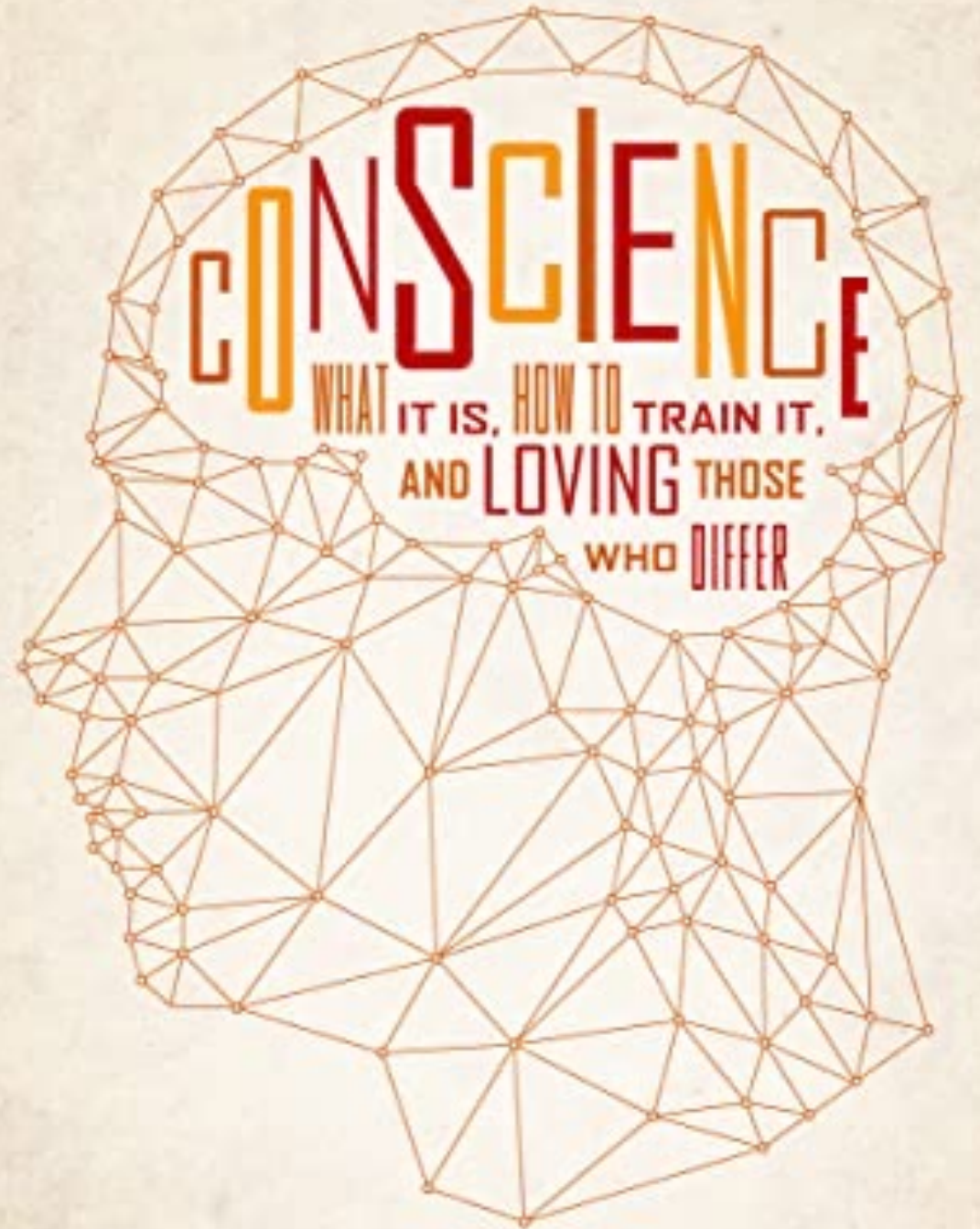
- “The conscience is your consciousness of what you believe is right or wrong at any given point or time”. -Andy Naselli
- “con” = “with” + “science” = “knowledge”

Can the conscience change?

- Truth in God's Word:
- Acts 10:9-16
- God's Word must always inform our conscience.

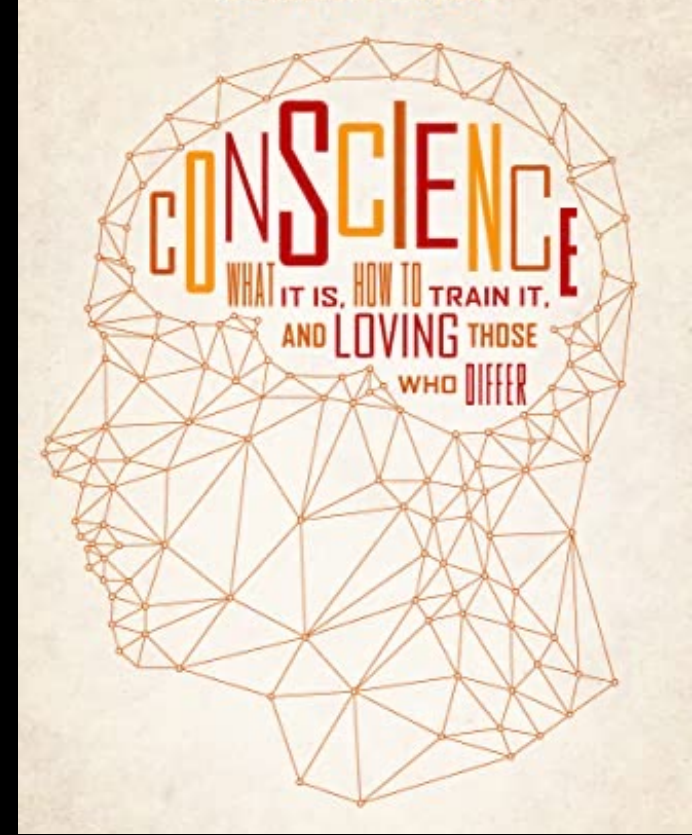
The conscience can be...

- 1 Timothy 1:5 | Good
- Hebrews 9:14 | Cleansed
- 1 Timothy 3:9 | Clear



The conscience can be...

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



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 he had no choice but to follow orders, 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; he felt absolved of any guilt.

"I will leap into my grave laughing because the feeling that I have five million human beings (the Jews) on my conscience 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

- First, look to God's truth found in His Word.
- Second, 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.

Painting the Conscience



Session 5:
Loving those
who differ

missdontcare_ 35.0k points · 13 hours ago  3

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 it.

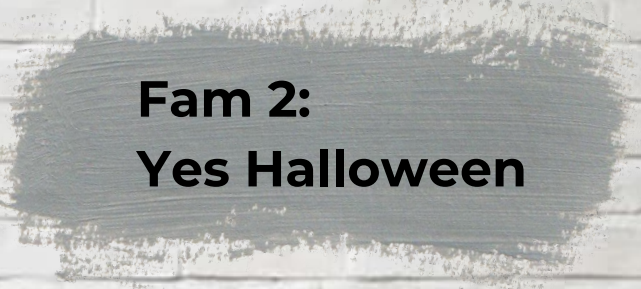
1 Corinthians 8:9-13

- BLACK:

something
is wrong
for everyone.



**Fam 1:
No Halloween**



**Fam 2:
Yes Halloween**

- GRAY
(OPINION /
FAM RULES):

something
can be wrong (sin)
for one person
but right
for another person.



- Obey your parents even when your conscience is different than theirs.

- Painting can hurt others.

