

HELP 15

TOPIC: Your Conscience & God's Voice

One of the greatest hurdles to get past when wanting to hear God's voice is 'conscience'.

'Conscience' is a biblical concept¹, so I'm not denying that. However, there are problems in recognising what your conscience is.

What Christians call 'conscience' is a mixture of Spirit-communication and cultural conditioning. This conditioning is both from society as well as the church.

Conscience has been the stated way God speaks to us because, historically, Christians have not been filled with the Spirit enabling them to genuinely recognise his voice. In fact, because all denominations had taught that the charismata had died out with the the 1st apostolic disciples, there was the need to reconcile scripture with their non-spiritual construct. Hence, the focus on the conscience rather than the Spirit.

Spirit-filled believers should not have any trouble hearing the Spirit communicate with them. What all believers need to do is to recognise what part of 'conscience' is cultural conditioning so it can be ignored where necessary.

Here's what I mean by cultural conditioning: If a person feels negatively about doing something that is righteous or 'neutral', their culture has most likely conditioned them to 'feel' this way. Likewise, if a person feels that it is OK to do something unrighteous then their culture has most likely conditioned them to 'feel' this way.

Of course a person can "sear" their conscience so they can't detect it in many or all situations. This is a different issue.

These are examples of cultural conditioning:

1. A woman feels 'naked' when not wearing a hat to church meetings.
2. A woman feels 'naked' when not wearing a head scarf to church meetings.
3. A man feels 'undressed' when not wearing a suit to church meetings.
4. A person has no qualms about stealing.
5. A person has no qualms about lying.
6. A person has no qualms about accepting abortion as normal.
7. A person has no qualms about accepting homosexuality as normal.
8. A person feels uneasy if they don't put money in the Sunday morning collection.

1 - See John 8:9; Acts 24:16; Romans 2:15; 13:5; 1 Corinthians 8:7, 10, 12; 1 Timothy 1:5; 3:9; Titus 1:15; Hebrews 9:14

9. A person feels uneasy if they don't go to a church meeting on a Sunday.
10. A person feels 'dirty' if they haven't been to confession during the week.
11. A person feels 'unholy' if they haven't had communion on Sunday.
12. A person feels 'unholy' if they haven't gone to a church meeting on Christmas Day or Easter Friday.
13. A person can't bring themselves to overtake a wide load parked on the edge of the road if it means crossing a double line.
14. A Christian can't accept a preacher who wears sandals or shorts when they preach.

Do you see that culture has programmed us to think certain ways?

Can you see that it's easy for Christians to think any uneasiness is their conscience when it could be cultural conditioning?

IMPORTANT: Learning to hear God's voice clearly and unmistakably bypasses the problem of the conscience's corruption.

NOTE: To help understand how God speaks through a person's conscience, the resources below will be of assistance.

RESOURCES

- Frank Viola "Demystifying the Lord's Voice: Part 1" (frankviola.org/2016/07/19/demystifying1)
- Frank Viola "Demystifying the Lord's Voice: Part 2" (frankviola.org/2016/07/26/demystifying2)
- "Jesus Speaks" [book] (jesusspeaks.me)
- "Jesus Speaks" [e-book **sample**] (frankviola.org/JesusSpeaksSampler.pdf)

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