

"The Hidden Person of the Heart" (1 Peter 3:4)

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Introduction: The things in which God gives emphasis the world ignores or opposes.

- A. The real mark of the Christian's character is how well God's priorities becomes a part of us. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 - 1. Making these things part of our lives will mean resisting and fighting the standards of the world.
 - 2. We as parents have an awesome task to instill these values in our children.
- B. Consider how God shows His priorities in this exhortation to women. **(1 Pt 3:3-4)**
 - 1. This is a "not .. but" verse. These are two things that God says is not of equal value.
 - 2. God also tells us His priorities in other "not ... but" verses.
 - a. Physical food verses God's word. **(Jn 6:26-27)**
 - b. Money verses the future blessing of God. **(Mt 6:19-20)**
 - 3. Remember, the world will give us no help in finding and teaching these values.

I. Our conscience will reveal what is hidden in our hearts.

- A. What is a conscience?
 - 1. "suneidesis" - the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other.
 - 2. The conscience is a judge based upon previous training and experience. **(Rom 2:14-15)**
 - a. A good conscience will make you feel bad by just thinking a thing.
 - b. A conscience can be trained in a wrong way. You may do bad and feel good or do that which is not sin and feel bad! **(Acts 23:1, 26:9; 1 Cor 8:7)**
 - c. A weak conscience is one that has been improperly trained.
- B. We fail to have a good conscience in two ways.
 - 1. We may fail to instill in our hearts what is right. **(Heb 8:10; Jas 1:22-25)**
 - a. Here is where our love for God causes us to meditate upon what is pleasing to Him. (Ex. Things you change when you fall in love.)
 - b. There are times when Christians love the world more than God. In this kind of heart they proclaim freedom from "rules." **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**
 - 2. We may weaken and even destroy the conscience through doing those things we know are wrong. **(1 Tim 4:1-2; Tit 1:15-16)**
- C. A Good conscience will give you great blessings.
 - 1. You can know that you have acted properly. **(Rom 9:1; 2 Cor 1:12)**
 - a. There is a great strength in looking at others and knowing you have done what was best before them! **(Acts 23:1)**
 - b. There are limitations to this confidence. We must always seek out to test our confidence by God's word. **(1 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 2. You can be strong in adversity. **(1 Pt 2:19; 3:16)**
 - a. What is the source of our strength in these times? We can know that God is with us! **(1 Pt 3:12-14)**

- b. In times of grief we can take great comfort in knowing the great God whom we serve will not forsake us.
- 3. What about those who do not have a good conscience? Their religion is a terror and a burden to them. **(Prov 28:1)**

II. How the conscience will affect our dress.

A. Our dress should reflect a good conscience. **(1 Tim 2:9-10) KJV**
 " In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with **shamefacedness** and **sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; {10} But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

- 1. **Modest** - (kosmios) - of good behaviour , well arranged, seemly.
- 2. **Shamefacedness** - (aidos) - perhaps ..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.
- 3. **sobriety** - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control

B. Nakedness should cause the painful emotion of shame!

- 1. **(Gen 2:25)** - Adam and Eve were naked when they had **no clothes**.
- 2. **(Gen 3:7,10-11)** - They were **still naked** when they made the equivalent of men's swimming trunks!
- 3. **(Gen 3:21)** - They were no longer naked when God made them "tunics of skin". These are defined as: "generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees" (v. 21; Gesenius, Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon, 420).
- 4. "God replaced their shorts with garments covering from the shoulders down to the knees to cover the shame of their nakedness." - Ron Halbrook
- 5. **(Ex 28:41-42; Isa 47:2-3)** - God was very concerned with improper clothing that still left one naked! How much was covered? Look at the passages!
- 6. Have you lost your shame concerning nakedness?

C. God has also spoken on the length of hair for women and men. **(1 Cor 11:14-15)**

- 1. A good conscience will not be defensive about what men think but rather careful to be pleasing to God.
- 2. We can become used to what the world accepts and forget God. (Ex. 1960's)

III How the conscience will affect our actions.

A. In dating we will avoid those things that destroy restraint. **(2 Tim 2:22)**

- 1. What is a proper display of affection and what is that which stimulates lusts?
- 2. What if you date someone who does not have a good conscience? Do not be surprised to be tested again and again to more and more compromise. **(2 Tim 3:6-7)**
- 3. This is a very strong test of your conscience. Why not date a Christian who also has a heart for God?
- 4. This is why Christians avoid the public dance, mixed swimming and such things.

B. We will tell the truth. **(Col 3:9; Eph 4:25)**

C. We will make things right! **(Mt 5:22-24)**

Conclusion: Are you looking to let God rule in your heart? **(Mt 5:8)**

A. We need each other to help test our hearts. **(Heb 10:23-25)**

B. Above all we need to bare our hearts to God and ask for help. **(Lk 1:6; Rev 3:2)**