

# THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

## Part 1: Accepting Differences

Romans 14:1-6

### Introduction:

- Some may call something sin, where another person may not because of c\_\_\_\_\_
- The problem - d\_\_\_\_\_ wrongly occur over matters of conscience.
- The point of this message – to prevent matters of conscience from being a point of division and accepting the differences in conscience among other Christians.

### Re\_\_\_\_\_ The Issues Of Conscience (2,5,6)

- There are two broad categories of sin
  1. Sins that are u\_\_\_\_\_ sin for all – a matter of biblical standards.
  2. Sins that are relative to the person – a matter of conscience
- Two specific issues of conscience that was creating problems within the Roman church are mentioned:
  1. F\_\_\_\_\_ - some ate m\_\_\_\_\_ and others ate v\_\_\_\_\_ only
    - a. Gentiles who became Christians
      - 1) Abstained from m\_\_\_\_\_ offered to idols
      - 2) Would eat meat that Jews could not without violating the dietary l\_\_\_\_\_ in Leviticus.
    - b. Most Jews who became Christians
      - 1) Would eat meat offered to i\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) Followed the dietary laws in Leviticus
    - c. Essenes who became Christians – were v\_\_\_\_\_
    - d. These solution to the differences is not creating a diet that all could accept, for who would set that standard?
  2. The observance of d\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Jews who became Christians – observed the S\_\_\_\_\_ day as holy because of the Ten Commandments.
    - b. Gentiles who became Christians – may have viewed all days the s\_\_\_\_\_. (later some may have viewed S\_\_\_\_\_ as holy because Jesus rose from the dead on that day).
    - c. The solution to this is not to make Gentiles become Jews first and then become Christians
      - 1) Before Christ - The Old Covenant was given to the J\_\_\_\_\_ culture **only**. If a Gentile wanted to enter into a covenant relation with God, he/she would have to become a part of the Jewish culture.

- 2) After Christ – The New Covenant was made with a \_\_\_\_\_ cultures without any requirements of observing Old Covenant laws (read Acts 15).

●Application

1. Sunday

- a. Some wrongly think that God changed the day of rest to Sunday, which is biblically the f\_\_\_\_\_ day of the week.
  - 1) The first day of the week is literally, “the first after the S\_\_\_\_\_ (only 8 references to this day - Matt 28:1; Mk 16:2,9; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1,19; Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:2)
  - 2) The Sabbath day (literally, “rest day” is biblically S\_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Working on Sunday
  - 1) Some think it wrong to do any w\_\_\_\_\_ - secular work, mowing the lawn, etc.
  - 2) Others think it is wrong to engage in any kind of recreation - playing cards, watching T.V., etc.
- c. We must recognize this as not a biblical issue but a matter of conscience

2. Alcohol

- a. Some believe that drinking alcohol as a b\_\_\_\_\_ is wrong.
- b. Others believe that drinking alcohol in m\_\_\_\_\_ is fine.
- c. We must recognize this not as a biblical issue (except excessive drinking), but an issue of conscience.

**Re\_\_\_\_\_ The Convictions Of Conscience (1,3)**

●Two categories of people in matters of conscience.

1. Those that ARE w\_\_\_\_\_ in faith
  - a. The Gentile who set a standard not to eat m\_\_\_\_\_ sacrificed to idols.
  - b. The Jew who set a standard of the dietary l\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The Jew who observed the S\_\_\_\_\_
2. Those that are NOT w\_\_\_\_\_ in faith
  - a. The same Gentile who observed all days the s\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The same Jew who would eat meat from idols.

●The term “weak” is not meant to be negative, but to refer to a person’s whose conscience is easily violated because of their background.

1. We are all weak in faith in some area:
  - a. Alcohol
    - 1) A believer who has overcome alcoholism
    - 2) A believer who sees the dangers of alcohol and vows to never drink a drop.
  - b. Sunday - A believer who feels guilty in mowing the lawn
  - c. Food – a believer who feels that eating junk food would bring them down spiritually.
2. Our response to these differences is to r\_\_\_\_\_ each others conscience.

## Re\_\_\_\_\_ The Accountability Of The Conscience (4)

- Verse 4 shows the wrong action – j\_\_\_\_\_
- 1. This is different than c\_\_\_\_\_ those who are sin (we are commanded to do this – Matt 18:15-17)
- 2. This is defined as c\_\_\_\_\_ those who don't measure up to your standards
  - a. No one can s\_\_\_\_\_ the conscience except God – so to our Master (God), we stand or fall.
  - b. God enables people to stand in areas where others might fall.
- Application using the pastor and smoking as the situation
- 1. Pastor would feel guilty if he were to take one puff (he is w\_\_\_\_\_ in faith)
- 2. Pastor speaks with another person who smokes; which of the following actions are wrong and which are okay:
  - a. Points out that it is unhealthy
  - b. Asks if the person is addicted
  - c. Tells a person that they are fooling themselves and are being unspiritual.
  - d. Prays that they will be honest before God.
- 3. We need to allow God to be God in every person's life and leave the accountability of a person's conscience up to God!