

*"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)**