

Growing Kids God's Way

Summary Outline - Visit 5 - Chapter 5

I. Introduction

Some facts about the conscience

- A. Used over 860 times in O.T.

- B. Used over 30 times in N.T.

- C. Often translated: The _____
e.g. 1 Samuel 24:5
e.g. Acts 23:1

II. How Does the Conscience Work?

A. The conscience can be divided into two functions, or two components.

- 1. _____ conscience

- 2. _____ conscience
(Lower/higher conscience or trained/untrained conscience.)

B. The fundamental difference between the two is:

- 1. The primary conscience is _____ in human personality.

- 2. The moral conscience is _____ into human personality.

C. Primary Conscience

- 1. "For when Gentiles who do not have the law do naturally the things of the law, these not having the law are a law to themselves, in that they show the works of the law written in the hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them" (Romans 2:14-15).

- 2. The apostle Paul was appealing to that reality in Romans 2:14-15. His point was that even without the Law, man still has a basic _____ of right and wrong.

D. Moral Conscience

- 1. The moral conscience is suited to receive _____ instruction.

- 2. The _____ of right and wrong is written on the moral conscience while the sense of right and wrong is inborn in the lower or the primary conscience.

- 3. The natural sense of right and wrong without the aid of biblical revelation will produce _____ inadequacy.

III. Establishing the Moral Warehouse

A. Psalm 119:11—"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

1. The action: David hid something
2. The object: The Word of God
3. The place: His heart
4. The reason: To maintain a right relationship with God

B. Psalm 119:11 speaks to the capacity of the heart.

1. The heart _____ instructions.
2. The heart _____ instructions.
3. The heart _____ instructions.

IV. The Four Activities of the Conscience

A. Negative

1. Your conscience will _____ you when you are about to do wrong.
2. When you do wrong, your conscience will _____ you through the mechanism of guilt.

B. Positive

1. The conscience _____ us to do right.
2. When we do right, it _____ us.

V. The Moral Search Mechanism

VI. Positive and Prohibitive Training

A. The human conscience is developed both positively and prohibitively.

1. Prohibitive training is used predominately in the _____ years.
2. Positive training is used predominately after _____ years of age.

B. Warning! You must make the transition.

C. Signs of a healthy and unhealthy conscience

The healthy conscience says, "I ought to because it's _____," or, "I should not because it's _____."

D. The prohibitive conscience

1. The prohibitive conscience says, "I have to or _____."
2. The prohibitive conscience is not a guilty conscience, but a conscience that functions in an ongoing state of _____ guilt.

How do parents create it?

- a. Manipulating their children by creating fear of losing Mom or Dad's _____, or approval.
- b. Manipulating the conscience by making the child feel _____.
- c. Failing to provide the _____ reason why.

VII. Prohibitive Conscience Test

Scale 1 = Never true of me

3 = Sometimes true of me

5 = Half yes/half no

7 = Usually true of me

10 = Always true of me

(If a question does not apply, think of how you might respond.)

1. ____ When someone says, "I need to talk with you right away," I get nervous and begin to wonder what I did wrong.
2. ____ Even as an adult, somehow I am made to feel guilty by my mother or father if I do not do what she or he asks or demands.
3. ____ Somehow my mother-in-law/father-in-law makes me feel guilty if I do not do what she or he asks or demands.
4. ____ If fifty people told me I did a good job, but one person did not like what I did and was critical, the discouragement from the one person would be greater than the encouragement of the fifty.
5. ____ Sometimes I go to church even when I do not want to just out of the fear that someone might say something about me if I were not there.
6. ____ My tendency, when I am in a disagreement with another person, is to give in and say to myself, "It really doesn't matter anyway."
7. ____ I constantly seek affirmation from those who are closest to me.
8. ____ When I'm asked to help a friend or relative, and I need to say no for legitimate reasons, I still feel guilty.
9. ____ I am the one who usually says, "I'm sorry."
10. ____ I fear losing my child's love when I discipline him or her.

(Score sheet found in workbook at end of Chapter Five)