

## The Joy of a Clean Conscience – Class #4

Adult Equipping – May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

### Overview

1. What is the conscience and why is it important?
2. How does the gospel allow me to live with a clean conscience before God?
3. How do I tune or calibrate my conscience?
4. How does Scripture help me to navigate differences of opinion in regard to matters of conscience?

### Review & Reflection:

- How do the truths of Hebrews 9 and 10 allow us to live with a clean conscience before God?
- Did anyone reflect on how these objective truths informed your personal experience?
- Does anyone have any questions at this point that they'd like to surface (for either this class or a future one)?

### How do I tune or calibrate my conscience?

1. *The Calibration Spectrum (1 Tim. 1:19, 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 10:22; 1 Cor. 8:7, 10)*

2. *The Calibration Standard (Acts 10/Gal. 2:11-14; Rom. 14:5-7; Heb. 5:11-14; Rom. 12:2)*

### Cultural Interaction:

*“psychological categories and an inward focus are the hallmarks of being a modern person. This is what (Charles) Taylor refers to as expressive individualism, that each of us finds our meaning by giving expression to our own feelings and desires.”*

*The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self, Carl Trueman, p. 46*

“...many people treat morality as a list of rules. But in reality, every moral system rests on a worldview. In every decision we make, we are not just deciding what we want to do. We are expressing our view of the purpose of human life...secular morality rests on a deep division that runs through all of Western thought and culture – one that blows apart the connection between scientific and moral knowledge. In the past, most civilizations held that reality consists of both a natural order and a moral order, integrated into an overall unity. Therefore, our knowledge of reality was likewise thought to be a single, unified system of truth.

In the modern age, however, many people came to think that reliable knowledge is possible only of the natural order – of empirically testable scientific facts. What does that imply for moral truths? They cannot be stuffed into a test tube or studied under a microscope. Many people concluded that morality does not qualify as objective truth. It consists of merely personal feelings and preferences.”

*Love Thy Body, Nancy Pearcey, p. 11-12*

3. *The Means of Calibration (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 7:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:23-26)*

4. *Illustration: Conscience Addition and Subtraction (Naselli)*

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*Questions for Reflection:*

- 1. Where do you find yourself on the calibration spectrum? Does your conscience need awakening in some areas? Is it too sensitive in other areas?*
- 2. How has your conscience changed over the years?*
- 3. This week, look for signs of our society's supreme value of authenticity. Why is authenticity so important to our world? Should it be important to us? Why or why not?*
- 4. How has God calibrated your conscience? Are you taking advantage of all the ways that God provides to shape your conscience? If not, how might you?*
- 5. **Read 1 Corinthians 8-10 and Romans 14 in preparation for next week.** What do these passages share in common? How do they speak to our cultural context and your specific life?*