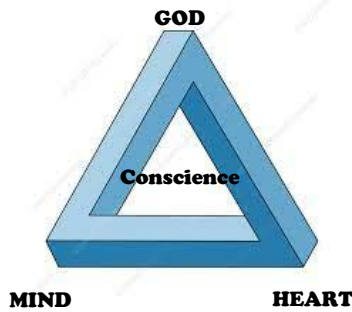


WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

It is the Instruction Manual from God.

Lesson 2A - How does God Communicate with us?

- *Keep in mind that before people had (or wanted) access to the Bible, God used other ways.*



THROUGH OUR CONSCIENCE

- *The word "conscience" means "God's person shining through".*
- *We are created "in the image of God". (Gen. 1:26)*
- *"In God's image" means we "reflect the person of God".*
- *This conscience was created in us as part of our being.*
- *The conscience is a team; the mind & the heart evaluate what we see, and then guides us on how to respond in our behavior.*
- *The conscience is programmed by the culture around us.*

Whatever is right or wrong around us, that is how we are guided.

1. Yes No Does this sound reasonable? A human choice is probably based on:
 - a. That which brings the greatest happiness
 - b. That which brings the least pain (to include guilt)
2. Yes No Try this one. We make a choice between two plans of action.
 - a. If we choose one path & it works, we call that "right".
 - b. We choose another path & it does not work, we call that "wrong".
 - If it "works", we probably had great pleasure or happiness (at least, for a while).
 - If it doesn't work, we probably endured pain & guilt (maybe, for a longer period of time).

AS WE GROW, WE WATCH OTHER PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES, MAKING CHOICES - GOOD & BAD. WE LEARN TO AVOID CERTAIN WRONG CHOICES & CHOOSE THE RIGHT CHOICES.

3. Yes No Our conscience basically copies the value choices of other people.
4. What kind of consciences could we have?
 - a. (Acts 24:16) _____
 - b. (Prov. 3:24-26) _____
 - c. (1 Tim. 1:5) _____
5. What does our conscience need from time to time?
 - a. (Heb. 9:13-14) _____
6. What condition could our conscience deteriorate into?
 - a. (1 Tim. 4:1-2) _____
 - b. (Titus 1:15) _____

A Reminder

- *God gave us a conscience at creation; we were born sinners so the conscience was also sinful.*
- *God still spoke to us through our conscience, allowing us to see the right & wrong around us.*
- *We did not know that was happening until one day we decided to become a believer.*
- *Because we are sinners, we can hear the conscience's warning, but choose to ignore it.*
- *"Lord, keep my conscience soft and tender as You build my character through the Holy Spirit."*