

## Why You Need Convictions - 01/12/20

**TEXT – 2 Co 6:14-18** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

**INTRO-** The message is for all but especially to young people, children teens and young adults. I don't always make a case for what I believe and why it is the best way to live. I should brag more on the faithful members of this church and their continued sacrifice and faithful service. Every young person will have to decide who they will associate with and who they will listen to and how they will live their life.

### I. The Christian Life Should Be A Life of Consideration

**1 Ki 12:6-8** *And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? 7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. 8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:*

**Jer 6:16** *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

**Pro 19:20** *Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.*

**Pro 15:22** *Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.*

### II. The Christian Life Should be A Life of Conviction

**Do You Want A Life of Ease or a Life of Faith?**

Sometimes you don't know what you have until you lose it!

- Your personal beliefs must be ones that you form

Developing convictions is a process.

**1. Process of moving from dependency to interdependency.**

**2. The problem is not knowledge it is obedience.**

**Rom 14:12** *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Convictions of Christians are most frequently cultural, Christian convictions are always biblical.

A Biblical model of how to develop your convictions. (Deuteronomy 6:4f)

**1. Incarnation** – The Words shall be upon you, It holds you.

**2. Instructional** – Teach them and talk about them.

**3. Internalization Process** – They should control all you do, everything you think about, your most intimate personal areas of your life, and business.

**You are just as spiritual as you want to be, as you choose to be.**

Personal convictions function as our moral compass.

Christians are taught to treat this world as strangers passing through **Ps 39:12**

When visiting a foreign country for the first time, we find tools to keep us from becoming lost. GPS, maps, and compasses. Personal convictions function in the same way. When we come to crossroads, our convictions will help us make beneficial, godly choices.

**Personal convictions work for us in 3 important ways:**

- Personal convictions keep us set apart from the ways of the world.
- Personal convictions help us hold ourselves accountable to God's standards.
- Personal convictions provide a witness to others.

### III. The Christian Life Should Be A Life of Distinction

**1 Co 14:9-12** *So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. 10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. 11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

**Dan 1:8** *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

**1 Co 6:19-20** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

### IV. The Christian Life Should Be A Life of Application

1 Corinthians 6:13-14 lists five steps that every Christian can follow in order to insure consistency and balance in building Biblical convictions.



**Jas 1:23-25** *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

### **1. BE ON YOUR GUARD**

A. Samson -Judges 13 through 16

B. Although Samson was given supernatural strength, he was conquered by a woman, blinded by his enemies and forced to grind wheat in a prison. Samson failed to be alert to spiritual danger.

C. To be alert to spiritual danger means to develop our discernment!•Recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:17, 22-23)•Recognize false thinking. (Humanism vs. the Bible authority)•Detect subtle temptations and wrong motives. •Determine unwise and destructive friendships.•Foresee conflicts and problems before they happen

### **2. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH**

A. Daniel -Daniel 1 and 6

B. On two separate occasions, Daniel was commanded to do things which violated the teaching of Scripture. Because of his strong convictions, Daniel became mightily used by God in the land of captivity.

C. Be true to God's standards.•His response to the first situation (Daniel 1) was to explain his convictions to the one in charge and respectfully ask for permission to use a creative alternative.•His response to the second situation (Daniel 6) was to obey God and submit to the authorities for disobedience

### **3. BE COURAGEOUS**

A. Joshua—Joshua 1

B. God promised Joshua that he would have great success wherever he went IF he would faithfully perform one activity: to meditate upon God's Word night and day! It is through saturation of God's Word in everyday life that we become successful and that we are courageous in the face of opposition and danger. (Joshua 1: 2-9)

C. Act with confidence in God's ability!•Be able to place God's principles upon Scripture.•Research the actual meaning of Scripture.•See reality through the "eyes" of Scripture.•Meditate on God's Word so that it becomes a part of our thought processes.•Correctly apply Scripture to real-life situations

### **4. BE STRONG**

A. Elijah -1 Kings 17 and 18

B. Elijah lived in a day when the people of Israel worshipped God with their mouths but served other gods. How did Elijah turn Israel back to God? First, he brought the people to a point of decision (I Kings 18:21). Then he revealed the futility of the gods of Baal and demonstrated the reality and power of God in a great and supernatural way (I Kings 18:22-40). However, Elijah succumbed to demonic pressure through Queen Jezebel. God's intent was to increase Elijah's own strength through the trial.

C. Be strong in strength and might of God!•Be filled with the Spirit of God, clothed in His might and dressed in His armor. (Ephesians 6:10-13)•Be genuine and live out your convictions in your own life.•Teach people to teach others to develop Scriptural convictions. (2 Timothy 2:2)•Be prepared to stand alone for your convictions!

### **5. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE –STEPHEN**

A. Stephen -Acts 6 and 7

B. When Stephen was called before the Jewish Council to answer false charges, his face became like the "face of an angel" (Acts 6:15). What was the secret of such power? Stephen was able to love his persecutors with such intense and genuine love because he was filled with God's Word and was mighty in spirit! He was already prepared to love them, even to the death!

C. Respond with the love of God in difficult circumstances!•Esteem others higher than yourself. (Philippians 2:2-4)•Demonstrate a servant's heart and a learner's spirit.•Always watch for pride and conquer it. •Be committed to the success of others and earn the right to be heard.•Learn to see situations from the other person's perspective.•Be patient with others in their process of developing personal Biblical convictions.•Refuse to be angry when others fail you.•Overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21

**CONCL –**