

*Name some qualities or  
characteristics that describe our  
God...*

*He is Good, Kind, Loving,  
Forgiving and what else??*

**God is Good, Kind, Loving  
and Forgiving...**

...but He also is a **STERN** God.  
*God is NOT to be played with...*

*Have you ever done something  
wrong in your life and you just felt  
terrible about it?*

*Think about how you felt about  
what you did...*

*If you've done something  
wrong—and you feel terrible  
about it...then  
congratulations...you have a  
**conscience.***

*If you are a **Christian** and you've done  
something wrong—and you don't feel bad  
about it— then you have a problem.*

# Conscience

*What does it mean to have a conscience? Define what having a conscience means to you.*

*Conscience is conformity to one's own sense of right conduct; a feeling of shame when you do something immoral...*

## Developing A Godly Conscience...

*Examining our attitude towards sin  
in our lives...*

## Examples of Conscience

- 2 Samuel 11: 1-5, 14-15
  - King David gives in to his lust for Bathsheba
  - King David has a lack of a conscience...
  - He sleeps with another man's wife...He sleeps with the wife of a soldier who has been extremely loyal to him.
  - After unsuccessfully trying to cover up the sin, He orders Uriah's death...
  - *Where is King David's conscience? What do you see in his behavior? What is his behavior motivated by?*
  - *Do we sometimes lose our conscience because we are motivated by our own self-interest and selfish desires?*

## Real Life Examples of Lack of a *Conscience*



## Real Life Examples of Lack of a *Conscience*

- Scott Peterson– He kills his wife and unborn child so that he can live carefree and continue his adulterous affair with another woman. *Consequence: In Prison for Life*
- Michael Vick– He participated in the inhumane treatment of dogs for the purposes of dog fighting. *Consequence: In Prison. He has lost his reputation, career and money.*
- Marion Jones– In her quest to win Olympic medals, she knowingly took performance-enhancing steroids and cheated her way to the top of her sport. *Consequence: Going to Jail. She has lost her reputation, career and money.*
  - Life Lesson: When you have a lack of a conscience, eventually, there will be consequences for your actions.

## Paul's Great Conscience

- Romans 7: 15-25
  - Can you relate to Paul and his struggle against sin?
  - The Lord's Great Servant, Paul, is struggling with sin. What do you see in terms of Paul's attitude about sin?
  - What is the difference between Paul's attitude and King David's attitude? Paul has the right attitude towards sin. That should be the Christian's attitude...

### Questions for Thought

- \*\*Does having a conscience stop you from sinning all the time?
- \*\*Should having a conscience help you to avoid sin and wrongdoing most of the time?

### Life Lesson:

*Don't ever get comfortable in your sin.  
When we are okay with sin, God is not  
pleased with us.*

*Living in sin...  
Wallowing in sin...  
Enjoying the fact that you're in sin...*

## The Christian's Conscience

- The conscience of a Christian can be motivated by...**FEAR** of the Lord, **LOVE** for the Lord or **both**
  - **FEAR:** The Lord shows us that He is patient, but that he does have a breaking point.
    - Proverbs 1: 7 and Proverbs 1: 20-33
      - We ought to be motivated to live right because we fear the Lord. We don't want the Lord to get angry with us and *laugh at the trouble in our lives.*
    - The Lord gets angry and disciplines King David.
      - 2 Samuel 12: 11-12
  - **LOVE:**
    - James 1: 17 and John 3: 16
      - God has been more than good to all of us. We ought to be motivated to live right because of our love for Him.

## The Consequences of your Conscience

- John 15: 4-7
  - God shows us the importance of staying in His Word and living by His Word.
    - No branch can bear fruit by itself...
    - His promise to us: *Remain in me and I will remain in you...*
    - His warning to us: *Apart from me, you can do nothing...*
    - He promises that: *If you remain in me...ask for whatever you wish and it will be given you.*
- Hebrews 10: 26
  - A warning against *deliberate sin...* *Deliberate sin...is sinning without a conscience...sinning without making an effort to stop...*

# REPENTANCE

- Hosea 14: 1-2, 4
  - God says that He will accept Israel back if they ask for forgiveness and come back to Him...
  - He says that if Israel returns to Him that He will heal them, thus allowing them to have success...
  - If we return to the Lord and live our lives with a **GODLY CONSCIENCE...** *He will accept us back...and He will allow us to have success in our lives too... If you have strayed or you are not all that you can be for God, come back home to Him.*