

# 04 • Our Consciences

Creation is a powerful witness to God's "eternal power." The Bible reveals God's will. Brothers and sisters in Christ who can guide me into deeper understanding are a blessing. But if I'm going to develop a relationship with my Creator, I must "hold" his word "fast in an honest and good heart" (Luke 8:15).

Notice how Solomon described this process to his son in **Proverbs 3:1-3**:

My son, do not \_\_\_\_\_ my teaching,  
but let your heart \_\_\_\_\_ my commandments,  
for length of days and years of life  
and peace they will add to you.  
Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
\_\_\_\_\_ them around your neck;  
\_\_\_\_\_ them on the tablet of your heart.

**Proverbs 7:1-5** describes one of the blessings that come from having God's word "written" on our hearts:

My son, keep my words  
and \_\_\_\_\_ up my commandments with you;  
keep my commandments and live;  
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;  
bind them on your fingers;  
write them on the \_\_\_\_\_ of your heart.  
Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call insight your intimate friend,  
to keep you \_\_\_\_\_ the forbidden woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words.

As God's word is "written" on my heart, my God-given **conscience** is being shaped by my Creator. That conscience can "keep" me "from" the pitfalls of sin. It can remind me of the truth in the midst of temptation. It can provoke me to do the next right thing. Our consciences are a wonderful blessing of our Creator.



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is a "conscience"?
- Why would anyone ever experience "pangs of conscience" (1 Sam 25:31)?
- So why do we need more than just our consciences? Is it a big deal if I have a "clean" conscience, but I haven't been listening to God's word?
- How can our consciences:
  - "Keep" us "from" sin?
  - Remind us of the truth in the midst of temptation?
  - Provoke us to do the right thing, even when it's tough?
- So what if I've gone against my conscience and done things I know are wrong? What hope do I have? 1 Peter 3:21-22 and Hebrews 9:13-14 might be helpful here...
- What is James 4:17 teaching along these lines? How can our consciences even become "seared" (1 Tim 4:2)?
- Why is it such a serious thing to "wound" the conscience of another person (1 Cor 8:12)?