

## **Biblical Conviction –**

**To convict** – decision from a higher court handed down. Naturally from a Judge based on mans law or spiritually from the Holy Spirit based on scripture.

**To be convicted** – to have a sentence passed on you with consequences of guilt, shame, or punishment

**Condemnation** – Permanent and without remedy, final punishment

**To have conviction** – a formal public declaration or decision that something is right or wrong. Something that YOU decide and stand by. You are firm and do not waiver

**To have a conscience** – an internal sense or feeling about your conduct, intentions, or character with the moral obligation to do right or be good.

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- **Hebrews 13:18:** "Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a clear conscience, wishing to act rightly in every respect"
  - **1 Peter 3:16:** "Keep your conscience clear, so that, whenever you are defamed, those who libel your way of life in Christ may be shamed"
  - **Romans 2:15:** "Conscience accuses us when we are guilty and defends us when we are innocent"
  - **2 Corinthians 1:12:** "Conscience is a witness, testifying either for us or against us"
  - **1 John 3:19-21:** "Conscience is a judge, condemning or vindicating us before God"
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**Proper response to conviction** – Admit it, and Humbly REPENT, ask God to forgive you, stop practicing sin. Accept Gods forgiveness, trust in His power to redeem.

**Improper response** – assume condemnation with no remedy, hold on to guilt and shame, make "self-loathing" your identity.

**John 16:8** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

Jude 1:14 - "Behold, the Lord comes... <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way,

John 3:17 -For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him"

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**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Acts 4:29-31, Peter and John declare, "Now, Lord, look upon their threats and enable your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness" – (highlighting the idea of confidently proclaiming the message of God without fear, even in the face of opposition).

2 Tim 1:7 -For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Examples of personal conviction – (some convictions are personal, some are universal)

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1. I know that I am saved
  2. I know that God does not want me to hang out with those friends
  3. I know that I am supposed to stop getting drunk, sleeping around, etc
  4. I know that I must read the Bible, pray, go to church, tithe, serve, etc
  5. I know that I must love people and forgive them
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**Personal** – certain clothes I wear, music I listen to, financial sacrifices, holidays I celebrate.

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**Pharisees and Sadducees** imposed personal convictions and passed judgement on everyone who did not follow their personal application of the law.

Rom 14:22 –

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup> One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God

has accepted them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup> Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord

Message -

Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe—some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them—then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.

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**2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.