

05. The Function of Conscience

God's greatest gift to all men in their own beings and personalities is something that we don't think often about. And because we ignore it, it brings a lot of suffering in our lives.

All of us have been born from that first couple, Adam and Eve. And the sinful nature that poisoned, that entered into their system when they disobeyed God, is something that Adam and Eve have passed on to all their descendants. Today, we are all born with this tendency towards evil. We see that in children. We don't have to teach children to be evil. We don't have to teach children to tell lies. We don't have to teach children to do anything wrong. You know as parents what we have to teach children, is to do good. They are born with a tendency towards evil. That is because of that nature which they have inherited from the parents and ultimately from Adam and Eve who sinned.

We see, for example, children basically wanting their own way. Sin is not just external actions. It is far more deep rooted than that. It is an attitude of rebellion against God where I want my own way in life. I want to please myself, and it doesn't matter if other people get hurt in the process. It doesn't really matter what God thinks about it, so long as I please myself. We see that attitude very clearly in little children. Little children will grab and fight, and take things from one another. They are not bothered about other children. They just want to be happy themselves. This wanting one's own way, this stubbornness, is something that is in a child's nature from birth. And as he grows up, he doesn't get rid of that. In fact, as we grow to manhood, we don't really change. We are still the same except that we seek our own in more refined and cultured ways. We just

05. 道德心的作用

我们平时很少去想，那份神给人内在最好的礼物。然而，正是我们对它的忽视，给我们的生命带来了很多的不幸。

我们都是从世上的第一对夫妻，亚当和夏娃，繁衍出来的。那有毒的罪性，从他们违逆神的一瞬间就进入了他们，并且传给了子孙后代。今天的我们，都是一出生有着向着邪恶的趋势。从孩子身上我们就能看到。不需要人教，孩子们就知道如何作恶。不用教他们就知道撒谎。你根本不用去教他们如何犯错。作为家长，我们需要教孩子的，总是如何为善。他们出生就带着作恶的倾向。那是因为他们从犯了罪的父母那遗传而来的，并且每个人都可以追溯到犯了罪的亚当和夏娃。

我们知道，基本上孩子们就是想按自己的方式来行为。然而，罪不止是外在的行为。根源要比那深得多。它是对神叛逆的一种态度，我们想要按自己的方式来生活。我想要取悦自己，别人为这受伤害我也完全不在乎，只要我自己高兴就好。从小孩子身上，我们可以清楚地看到这个态度。小孩子们会争抢、打架，从别人手里抢东西。他们不在意别的小孩儿。他们只要自己高兴就好。这种想要满足自我的意愿，这份执拗，是从孩子一出生就有的。长大以后也没有摆脱。实际上，当我们长大成人后，根本没有实际的改变。我们只不过是用更加巧妙和讲究的方式来做同样的事。我们只是变得更聪明，变换了方式来给自己霸占东西。

become cleverer and change our methods by which we seek to grab for ourselves.

So the fifty year-old man and the one year-old child, are basically the same in wanting to seek their own except they seek it in different methods. The barbarian in the jungle, and the cultured, civilized man in the city are both basically the same. The selfishness of the cultured person, his covetousness, and his lust may be covered up with culture and civilization, but he hasn't changed within. And very often, religious people too are the same; selfish within, with an external veneer of graciousness and goodness, but basically, wanting to have their own way. The Bible teaches us that this is the cause of all of our problems - wanting to have our own way.

What is that which God has placed within us which we could say is God's greatest gift to man? It is our conscience. Conscience points out to us where we come short of God's standards. It is not a perfect guide, but it is an initial guide that shows us where we come short. When we are seeking to please ourselves, when we are harming another, our conscience warns us. Particularly the conscience of little children is very tender. It is not easy for a child to tell a lie with a straight face. When a little child tells a lie, we can see it on its face that he is telling a lie. But as we grow older, we kill that voice of conscience so much, that a time can come in our life, where we can tell a lie with a straight face. And then we can say that our conscience has become almost dead.

Now that is a serious thing, because conscience is like a warning signal. It is like pain. Some of us don't realise what a great blessing pain is in our body. It is pain that tells us that something is wrong. If you get

因此五十岁的人和一岁的小孩儿，本质上是一样的，只是通过不同的方法来实现这个目的而已。丛林里生活的野蛮人，和城市里生活的有教养的文明人，本质上是一样的。有教养人的那种自私，贪婪和欲望，只是被表面的文化和教养掩盖着而已。实际上有宗教信仰的人也经常是这样的，内里自私，外在虚假、和蔼、善良，但实质上，还是想要选择自我的方式。《圣经》告诉我们，想要行自我的方式，是我们生活所有问题的来源。

神放在我们里面的，那称得上最好礼物的是什么？就是我们的道德心（即“良心”——向着良善的心）。良心给我们指出来哪些地方不符合神的标准。它不是一个完美的指导，却是能让我们看到自己短处的最初的向导。当我们试图取悦自我时，当我们伤害别人时，良心会警告我们。特别是小孩子，他们的良心非常温柔。小孩子很难用若无其事的脸来撒谎。当一个小孩儿撒谎的时候，很容易从脸上看出他在撒谎。但我们长大，良心的声音被扼杀了很多，直到有一天，我们可以若无其事的撒着谎。这时候，我们就可以说，良心已经几乎死了。

这是一个严重的问题，因为良心是一个警告信号。它就类似于疼痛。很多人还没有意识到，疼痛对于身体而言是个巨大的祝福。是疼痛告诉我们，有什么地方不对劲了。比如，你的指甲戳在了脚上，你会觉得

a nail stuck in your foot, for example, you feel the pain. That is what tells you something is wrong. And you sit down and pull off that nail; otherwise, your foot would get infected. If something is wrong with your stomach, or in your kidneys, or somewhere, the indication is always pain. Pain is one of the greatest blessings in our physical body. It is because of that we are saved from death many times, or from infections. We are immediately aware that something is wrong.

Now the equivalent of pain in our spirit is our conscience, that troubles us when we do something wrong. Think of those who have the disease of leprosy, what happens to them? Leprosy kills the nerves and destroys sensation in the skin. A person with leprosy can have a nail pierce through his foot, and he won't even know it, because he doesn't have the blessing of pain. His foot would get infected, and he still wouldn't know it, because he doesn't feel the pain. In fact, I have heard stories of lepers whose toes were bitten off by rats in the middle of the night, when they were asleep, and they didn't feel a thing. When they got up in the morning, they found that their toes were missing and there is blood all around. Is that a good state to be in, where you don't feel pain? I hope you realise what a tremendous blessing it is to have pain. Pain is what saves us from losing our toes, or our foot, or our fingers or anything. It is through pain that we know something is wrong.

Conscience is like pain. It warns us when we have violated God's laws. What happens if you ignore its warnings, like many people do? You tell a lie, and your conscience tells you it is wrong, and you just suppress that voice? It doesn't die immediately. But over a period of time, if you keep doing that, finally, your conscience won't trouble you anymore when

痛。这就告诉你有些地方不对劲。尔后你坐下来把指甲拔出去，不然就可能感染。如果你的胃出了毛病，肾或是别的什么地方，疼痛经常是一个信号。疼痛对我们的肉体来说是最好的祝福。它让我们那么多次远离了死亡或感染。它会让我们马上就感到哪里不对劲了。

在我们的灵里面，良心就相当于疼痛，在我们做错事的时候让我们无法安稳。想想那些得了大麻疯病的人，他们是怎么样的？大麻疯杀死神经，毁坏皮肤的感知。一个得了大麻疯的人，就算指甲插进脚里也不会知道，因为他不再拥有“疼痛”这个祝福。脚感染了，可他却都毫无知觉，因为感觉不到痛。实际上，我曾听说有人得了大麻疯以后，半夜睡觉的时候，脚趾头被老鼠吃掉，却完全不知道。等到早上起来，发现脚趾头不见了，到处是血。你觉得感受不到痛，是件好事吗？我希望你意识到拥有“疼痛”，是多么巨大的一个祝福。疼痛能使我们不会失去手指、脚趾、脚，或者其它。通过疼痛，我们知道有些地方出了毛病。

良心就好像是痛觉。它警醒我们违反了神的律法（译者：神是至善的，良心是向着良善的神的心）。当你对这个警告，像很多人那样置之不理的时候，会怎么样？当你说了一个谎，良心告诉你这是错的，尔后你立刻镇压了这个声音。良心不会马上死掉。可是经过一段时间，你若总是这样，最后，你撒谎的时候良心不再折磨你了。别的罪恶也是类似。当你得了灵性上

you tell a lie. And it could go on with other sins as well. What happens then is that we get spiritual leprosy, and a day will come when you won't feel any sensitivity to sin anymore. That is not a good state to be in. It means you are spiritually dead. We would then become like animals, which have no conscience. A person, who has killed his conscience, descends to the level of an animal, which has no conscience. That is the reason why some human beings, sometimes, behave much worse than animals.

So I hope you realise now, that one of the greatest blessings or greatest gifts that God has given to man in His spirit is the gift of conscience. It tells us that we are spiritually sick, just like pain in our body will tell that we are physically sick or something is wrong inside and we should do something about it to get rid of it. We don't try to ignore the pain. We do something to heal that sickness. In the same way, when the conscience tells us something is wrong, it is God's voice, within us, telling us, 'You are responsible for what you did; what you did was wrong; you need to set it right.'

Jesus once used an illustration. He said that we should keep our conscience like we keep our eyes. You know how carefully we keep our eyes. It is the one part of our body that is bathed many times without even our realising it. Every time our eyelids close, our eyes are being cleaned with tears, and that happens thousands of times in a day. All the dust is being wiped out. Now we can afford to have dust on our body, all over our body, and live for many days. It won't destroy us or our bodies. But if you get even one speck of dust in your eyes, it can damage your eyes very soon, if you don't do anything about it. A small speck of dust is enough to destroy the eyes. That is why God has made the

的大麻疯会怎样？当有一天，你对罪再也没有知觉。这情况可不妙了。它说明你的灵命死了。我们就会变成像动物一样，没有道德感（良心）。一个人杀死了良知，就堕落到了动物的境地。这就是为什么有些人有时候，比动物还糟糕。

我希望你们现在能意识到，神给人最好的祝福或说是最好的礼物，就是良知/良心/道德感。它告诉我们属灵上的不健康，就如同身体的疼痛告诉我们肉体的不健康，里面出了问题需要解决。我们不会试图无视身体的疼痛，而是做点什么去治愈这个疾病。同样的，当我们里面听见良心说哪里不对了，是我们听见神在说：“你对刚做的要负责任；你做的是错的；你需要改正。”

耶稣曾用了一个比喻。祂说，我们需要像保护自己的眼睛那样去保护良心。你们都知道我们会多小心的保护眼睛。眼睛每天都被清理很多很多次，即使大部分时间我们没有留意。每次眼睛闭上，眼泪就清洁了眼睛，这每天会发生上千次。所有的灰尘都被清洗干净。我们或许可以忍受好几天全身布满灰尘。这不会毁了身体。然而可能只是一颗尘土进了眼睛，若不采取行动，你的眼睛都有可能很快被毁坏了。一小粒灰尘，就足以毁掉眼睛。就因为如此，神造人的身体时，让眼睛每天都被清理很多很多次。

human body in such a way that the eyes are washed all the time.

Jesus said keep your conscience like you keep your eyes. In the Gospel of Luke 11:34-36, He likened the conscience to the eye. He said if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. In other words, if you keep your conscience clear - what does that mean? That means that when we have done something wrong, we acknowledge it, we set the matter right. If you have hurt somebody you go and ask his forgiveness. If you have sinned against God you confess your sin to God. It is the first step to spiritual health, just like setting our body right whenever we discover pain. It is the first step to physical health. In the same way, conscience is the indication of sin in your body. It is only those who recognise that they are sick who go to a doctor. Jesus once said to certain religious people of His time that He couldn't help them; He didn't really come for them because they were not aware that they were sick. They were so convinced that because they were religious, they were accepted by God. But they were sick as anything.

How was it they were not aware of it? Because they had killed their conscience for so many years, they were not even aware of how distant they were from God. A lot of religious people try to appease God or please Him by going to places of worship, by giving money to the poor, and various other means. But none of these things can cleanse our conscience from sin. The most important thing for us to recognise is that it is sin that has separated us from God. And any amount of good works or money given to the poor, or any types of activity like that can never bring us back to God. If we recognise that we are sick and that we need to be cleansed, and that sin is destroying our soul, we will come to God;

耶稣说，像保护眼睛那样去保护你的良心。在路加福音 11 章 34 到 36 节，祂将良心比作眼睛。祂说你的眼睛若明亮，全身就充满光明。换种说法就是，你若保持良心的清洁，耶稣是什么意思？祂是说，如果在明知的情况下，去做不对的事，我们就要改正。如果你伤害了某个人，要去道歉求得原谅。如果你对神犯了罪，就向神坦白承认你的罪。这是通往健康灵命的第一步，如同每当身体有疼痛，就需要将身体调养。这是身体健康的第一步。同样的，良心是你身体里罪的指示器。只有感觉自己生病的人才会去看医生。耶稣曾说，祂在世时候有些信教的人，祂是帮不了的；祂不是为了那些人来的，因为那些人不知道自己出问题了。那些人深信，因为他们有宗教信仰，就已经被上帝接纳了。可他们却不知道，自己和其他人一样病入膏肓。

他们为什么意识不到？因为他们在很多年前，就已经杀死了自己的道德感，他们连自己离神有多远都感觉不到。很多信教的人通过到处敬拜，或给穷人钱和其它方法，来“安抚神”。但做这些事是没办法把罪从我们的良知里清理出去的。对我们而言，最重要的是明白，“罪”来自与神隔绝。无论做多少善事，给穷人多少钱，或诸如此类，都无法把我们带回神的身边。如果我们能看清我们病了，需要清理，看清罪在损害我们的灵魂，那样我们才会归向神；我们才会归向曾来世上赦免我们罪的耶稣基督。《圣经》说，如果我们承认自己的罪——知道自己是罪人——告诉主你曾经的过犯，祂就会原谅你，因为祂曾来到这个世上，为了我们的罪而死。

we will come to Jesus Christ who came to earth to forgive us our sins. The Bible says that if we confess our sins - that means you acknowledge you are a sinner - and tell the Lord what you have done, He will forgive you, because He came to earth to die for our sins.