

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

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July 5, 2015

Sermon – We Hold These Truths – July 4th Celebrates the Declaration of Independence

Conscience – Things you know that you ought to do, and out not to do

There is a personal conscience and a collective conscience. The best way to see this is to visit with a family who does not have the same rules as yours.

There is also a collective National Conscience...

For example...Our National Conscience in the USA is tuned into litter. You would never dump out a bag of trash going down the road. In Texas, we coin that into "Don't Mess With Texas!" while in Eastern Europe, mess is all around and no one thinks a thing about throwing trash out their car window...

- minimum marriage age without parents' consent
- abortion is legal in all states, but is different on when and how
- child labor laws are different in other countries

When there is a strong collective conscience about something, you don't have to have a lot of rules.

One of the reasons our legal system is so complex is the lack of social conscience in America (what you end up with is right and wrong being determined by the court, not the human heart).

A conscience has to be informed. For example, we teach our children not to throw things on the floor from the table, not to eat food off the ground, not to pick flowers from pots...

Romans 2: 14-15, when Gentiles, who do not have the law (they don't have the written word of God to go by), ***do by nature*** (collective conscience) ***things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are their***

thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

Your conscience takes the information you give it and it says you shouldn't do that or that's ok. Everybody here has an informed conscience.

What has in the past informed our national conscience? Things that are right and wrong to all of us as a nation.

Answer: a sense of accountability to and gratefulness to God

You think about the things you do because you are accountable to someone.

2nd Sentence from the Declaration of Independence...

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

In the 1950's, a line was taken from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and 'One Nation Under God' was put in the Pledge of Allegiance. By saying that, we are saying God oversees this nation.

In 1956, July 30th, our country got a new Motto, which was put on our coins after the civil war and the 84th Congress voted and Eisenhower signed it into law. That Motto of the United States is "In God We Trust."

What if every principal in every school said, "students remember we trust God," there would be law suits everywhere. IT'S OUR NATIONAL MOTTO!!!! We have moved so far from where we began.

Our national conscience is tied to God; we as we move away from God, something else must take his place. If God is the basis of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and if God goes away, what then is the basis of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

In **Deuteronomy 8 10-20**, a generation of ungrateful people had just passed away and a new generation was about to enter the promised land.

Enemy of conscience

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you

will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Wealth and dependence on God don't go hand in hand

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

When we think all we have is because of our hard work and our hands, we are not accountable to anyone.

When any group of people or individuals lose a sense of accountability to God, they will no longer treat people fairly.

Do you know how to keep the rich man from taking advantage of the poor – keep him accountable to God.

Don't you know how to keep the lazy man working? Keep him accountable to God.

How to Get it Back

18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

(This reminds us *why* God has blessed us. His plan is that it would ultimately further *His* eternal purpose. Therefore we have no right to use our material blessing to further selfish purposes, instead, we use our resources to advance His kingdom.

The Cost

19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. 20 Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

D-Day The last time a U.S. President prayed in public. June 6, 1944, Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed over the radio.

We can't allow God to disappear from our national conscience. Because that will leave us accountable to no one, it will lead to loss of all morality.

These are the things that men and women fought and died for.

Are you accountable and grateful to God? Do you live this out for everyone around you to see?

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