Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide

Reading -- Romans 14:14-23

**CONSCIENCE** refers to a moral awareness that judges an action right or wrong.

The Hebrew word is usually translated "heart". ***(2 Samuel 24:10) And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people***

***(1 John 3:20-21) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. {21} Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.***

To violate a young conscience: ***(Luke 17:2) "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.***

The sinful conscience is "defiled" ***(Titus 1:15) To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.***

***(Hebrews 10:22) draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.***

God’s Word is the standard and not ourselves. ***(Proverbs 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.***

Read ***(1 Corinthians 8:6-13)***

***1 Corinthians 4:4 For I know nothing by myself***, ***yet am I not justified: but he that judges me is the Lord.***

**the relationship between the strong and the weak**

Read ***(Romans 14:1-13)***

***(Ephesians 6:5-6) Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; {6} not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,***

(***Proverbs 6:16-19) These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: {17} A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, {18} A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, {19} A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.***

***(2 Thessalonians 3:6) But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.***

**we are our brother’s keeper**

Read ***(Romans 14:14-23)***

Now substitute dancing as the activity in the place of eating meats. ***{15} Yet if your brother is grieved because of your*** dancing***, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your*** dancing ***the one for whom Christ died. {16} Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;***

***(1 Corinthians 15:33) Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."***

***{Romans 14:17-19} for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,*** [it’s not playing cards or dancing] ***but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. {18} For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. {19} Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.***

***(James 4:17) Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.***

The best rule of thumb is “When in doubt, avoid it.” ***{23} But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.***