

Conviction vs Condemnation

* **Think of condemnation as the verdict and conviction as the reminder or warning**

It is important we see the core problem in this encounter? - Matt 19:16-24 - 16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" 17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother, and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

***Do not follow the rich man's example by ignoring the answer to life's ultimate question.**

Those that are self-righteous tend to condemn others instead of showing God's mercy - Matt 12:3-8 - 3 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread — which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

***Do not mistake Mercy for enabling**

To know if someone is truly condemned will be dependent on that individual - Matt 12:34-37 - 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Make no mistake, there are truths we must not ignore, for they show what leads to condemnation.

Exploiting the unfortunate under the excuse of religious virtue is condemnable. - Matt 23:14 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation. NASB

Improperly taking Communion - 1 Cor 11:29-32- 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 **That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.** 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

Preaching false gospels will lead to condemnation -Gal 1:8-9 -8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

False teachers will face the consequences of condemnation due to their deception –

2 Peter 2:3-10 - 3 **In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. THEIR CONDEMNATION HAS LONG BEEN HANGING OVER THEM, AND THEIR DESTRUCTION HAS NOT BEEN SLEEPING.** 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Jude 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

A deeper part of Hell reserved for false teachers -2 Peter 2:17-19 - 17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

Being religiously stubborn and argumentative is self-condemning - Titus 3:9-11 - 9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. 11 **You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; HE IS SELF-CONDEMNED.**

Making promises you are powerless to keep could doom you to Hell - James 5:12 Above all, my brothers, **do not swear** — not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or **YOU WILL BE condemned.**

Knowingly saying anything bad or wrong about the Holy Spirit will condemn - Mark 3:28-29 - 28 I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."

Remember, how we judge is how we will be judged - Luke 6:37-38 - 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. **Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.** Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

***Please see the OMS "Who Clearly will not enter" for the list of others who will be condemned**

What needs to be done to avoid condemnation

Understand, Jesus was punished in our place according to God's plan, so that our sins could be justly forgiven.

Only those that believe in Christ through Faith –

Those who Believe vs those that don't, is displayed by their lives - John 3:17-21 - 17 For **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,** BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM. 18 **Whoever BELIEVES IN HIM is not condemned,** but **whoever DOES NOT BELIEVE stands condemned** already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 **Everyone who DOES EVIL hates the light,** and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But **whoever LIVES BY THE TRUTH comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.**" ***Believing God (James 2:20-24)**

True belief is the only path to "righteousness", which is needed in order not to be condemned - Rom 3:21-26 - 21 But now **a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known,** to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.** There is no difference, 23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** 24 and are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because **in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—** 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

True belief is living, trusting in God. For those who live this way, their sins will no longer be remembered. - Rom 4:4-11 - 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, **to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked,** his faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 **"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."** 9 Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. 10 **Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!**

Living by the guidance and instruction of His Word will keep us from condemnation - John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, **whoever HEARS MY WORD and BELIEVES HIM WHO SENT me has eternal life and **WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED;**** he has crossed over from death to life.

Understand, in the end, His Word will be what determines if we are condemned or not- John 12:47-50 - 47 "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, **I do not judge him.** For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. 48 **THERE IS A JUDGE for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; THAT VERY WORD WHICH I SPOKE WILL CONDEMN HIM AT THE LAST DAY.** 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 **I know that HIS COMMAND leads to eternal life.** So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

If we use the flesh to try and become righteous, we are doomed to fail - Rom 7:14-24 - 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.** For I have the desire to do what is good,



→ but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So I find this law at work: **When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.** 22 For **in my inner being I delight in God's law;** 23 but **I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.** 24 **WHAT A WRETCHED MAN I AM!** Who will rescue me from this body of death?

There is only one solution to avoid condemnation - Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God — **through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

We must be "in Christ" to avoid condemnation- Rom 8:1-2 - Therefore, **there is now no condemnation for those WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS,** 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

...How do we know we are in Christ Jesus? - Rom 8:3-4 - 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be **fully met in us, WHO DO NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SINFUL NATURE BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT.**

Everything we do must be from Faith - Rom 14:22-23 - 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING THAT DOES NOT COME FROM FAITH IS SIN.**

Even when the offence is clear, we never have a right to condemn others because we end up condemning ourselves - John 8:3-11 - 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in **a woman caught in adultery.** They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, **"If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."** 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? **Has no one condemned you?"** 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then **neither do I condemn you,**" Jesus declared. "GO NOW AND LEAVE YOUR LIFE OF SIN."

We are warned when we judge without checking self - Rom 2:1-4 - You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, **do you think you will escape God's judgment?** 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

We must be conscious of what we are responsible for in our Christian Walk

We must not self-condemn, but be Spiritually convinced - 1 John 3:18-20 - 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For **God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.**

We are responsible for staying Pure and living reverent - 2 Cor 7:1 - Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**

We must make Godly decisions and never partner with unrighteous groups and know when to separate from them - Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith **he condemned the world** and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Remember Christianity is a lifestyle that protects us from condemnation - 1 Cor 15:1-2 - Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, IF YOU HOLD FIRMLY TO THE WORD I preached to you. **Otherwise, you have believed in vain.**

In order to keep us focused, we need things that cause conviction

***Do not mistake Conviction for guilt or enabling, but as reminders of who you are and how you should be**

In order to keep us focused we need to be refreshed of things we know - 2 Peter 1:12-15 - 12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think **it is right to refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

We need reminders and warnings - 2 Tim 2:14-17 - 14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

Godly reminders inspire Godly thinking - 2 Peter 3:1-2 - Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

Remind of basic everyday responsibilities - Titus 3:1-2 - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

Reminding of past events and outcomes is necessary to keep us from repeating - Jude 5-7 - 5 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. 7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Conviction is also from placing emphasis on those items we must take care of

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

1 Thess 5:14-15 - 14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Convictions can shame us into avoiding or stopping actions we know are wrong –

1 Cor 15:33-34 - 33 Do not be misled: "**Bad company corrupts good character.**" 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, **in order that he may feel ashamed.** 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

We need to TRUST GOD and stop being Guilty for past sins

When we repent and turn to God all past sins are wiped out –

Acts 3:19-21 - 9 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus.

Heb 10:15-17 - 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." 17 Then he adds: "**Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.**"

When we do not live in Godliness we are in danger of forgetting our past sins are forgiven - 2 Peter 1:8-9 - 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.