

# Conviction or Condemnation?

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

John 16:7-11 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Romans 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Hebrews 10:19-23 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Have you ever done something dumb, someone squealed, and soon all the kids at school were pointing at you and laughing or calling you names? Sometimes we can feel sad, worthless, stupid, and dumb just because people frequently tell us we are.

Read Revelation 12:10. What has Satan been doing? How long has he been doing this? Does he ever take a break?

In courts of law a person can be *accused* of a crime. If found guilty he is *convicted*. If the crime is really bad the guilty person can be *condemned* to death.

Read John 16:7-11 and Romans 9:1. What does the Holy Spirit do when He is in your heart?

In this use of the word *convict* it means: *to prove or be declared guilty of an offense*. Conviction can mean: *to have a fixed or firm belief*.

Sometimes, when we do something really wrong or bad we can have a guilty conscience. A guilty conscience can make us sad. What is God’s intent with this sadness (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)?

What is the difference between the sadness (condemnation) we feel as described in paragraph one as apposed to the sadness (conviction) we feel described in green?

According to 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 what should we do when the Holy Spirit is convicting us about something we’ve done wrong?

We can tell the difference between “godly sorrow” and Satan's accusations by the lack of/ or accompanying feeling of condemnation.

Romans 8:1-2 says “there is \_\_\_\_\_condemnation for Christians.

When you have done something wrong the Holy Spirit will press you for repentance/correction but will never give you the feeling that you are not worthy of coming boldly to God or could never be forgiven.

## **Lesson Plan: Conviction or Condemnation?**

**The Goal of this lesson:** The goal of this lesson is to help kids deal with feeling of guilt. A guilty conscience can be God's way of instigating correction and repentance. Kids can be plagued with feeling of unworthiness from taunting at school. Christians can feel guilty if they don't have the "awesome" quiet-times some people insist that a real Christian must have. We will bring scripture to bear on the issue of guilt that comes from accusations (condemnation) and the conviction of the Holy Spirit that brings repentance.

### **Leading the Lesson:**

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

I'll bet every kid has felt embarrassed at school from time to time. Some never recover from being picked on and taunted. They are under attack from the enemy, the accuser of believers. But Christians have a helper, the Holy Spirit, in their hearts to help. Their conscience confirms it.

Kids can tell the difference between God's conviction and the enemies accusations by whether they feel condemned about it. God does not condemn them. The enemy's goal is to make them feel bad about themselves so they won't draw close to God. But Satan loses his power once his evil schemes are revealed (2 Corinthians 2:10).

This is only a one page lesson plan but go slow and let the kids share. Look for kids who are not sharing or eyes are down. Follow up with them in private to see if they are struggling with guilt and rejection at school.

### **Summary:**

Make sure the kids know that even though they might mess up (sin) they are not condemned by God. They are still saved if they believe in Jesus. Celebrate they're identity in Christ. Explain that feelings like they're not good enough or aren't worthy to be loved, can be accusations of the enemy trying to separate them from their loving heavenly Father.

**Take Prayer Requests** Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.

**Follow up:** If your group needs it follow this lesson with "Your identity in Christ."