

Difference between the Holy Sprit and Conscience

Objective

To understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives

References

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Scriptural Verses

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

Lesson Outlines

The conscience is like a moral code that God has programmed in our hearts. We are born with it. Conscience responds to incoming information based on the commands it has been programmed to follow, much like a computer.

God has programmed us to respond in particular ways to certain data. When our actions or thoughts are contrary to that code, the conscience responds by sending a “NO” message to the brain and vice versa.

We experience this phenomenon every day. It can come as an inner hesitation, a feeling of guilt, an urge to act, etc.

Since the conscience is a responder to programming, then it can slowly be reprogrammed to other values different from the moral code of God. Some people have suppressed the original moral programming so much and for so long that their conscience is no longer alerting them when they do wrong.

When we became Christians, a change occurred in our conscience. The basic moral code was reconditioned and the Spirit of truth took up residency in our heart and completed the programming of our conscience so that we become aware of more specific and complete truths.

We participate in this renewal process every time we read the Bible, worship, or pray. The Holy Spirit uses all this input to reprogram the database through which our conscience evaluates opportunities, thoughts and deeds.

As this process continues, our conscience tunes in with the moral code of the Holy Spirit which is the moral and ethical standards of God. This process sensitizes us not only to God’s standards, but to the will of God.

The role of the Holy Spirit is:

- ✝ Convict (John 16:8-11)
- ✝ Illuminate (John 16:12-15)
- ✝ Teach (John 16:12-15)
- ✝ Guide (Romans 8:16)
- ✝ Intercede (Romans 8:26)
- ✝ Direct (Acts 20:22)
- ✝ Warn (Acts 20:23)

Conclusion

All Human beings are born with a conscience that sets a moral code for their life. The conscience is influenced by external factors such as the prevailing morality of the society, or familial upbringing. However, the Christian conscience is driven by the Holy Spirit. The more we are in communion with the Holy Spirit the more our consciences conform to God's Will.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Compare and contrast worldly morality with Christian morality.
2. Give scriptural examples of the above roles of the Holy Spirit.