

SYNC: The Importance of a Clear Conscience

(2 Corinthians 1:12-24)

Introduction

A) Story of 1984 crash of an Avianca Airliner

In 1984 an Avianca jet crashed in Spain. Investigators studying the accident made an eerie discovery. The Black Box in the cockpit where they record the dialogue of the pilots and the controllers revealed that several minutes before the fatal impact, a shrill computerized synthesized voice from the plane's automatic warning system told the crew repeatedly in English, "Pull up, pull up, pull up." The pilot inexplicably snapped back, "Shut up, Gringo," and switched the system off. Minutes later the plane smashed into the side of a mountain and everyone died.

That's a perfect parable of the way modern people treat the warning messages of their conscience. The conscience is there by God's designed, built into the fabric of every human being as a warning system. The wisdom of our age says that guilt feelings are nearly always erroneous, nearly always harmful, and we really need to switch them off – John MacArthur.

B) Contextualize this sermon in the series, SYNC.

C) Contextualize 2 Corinthians 1:12--24.

I. Identifying the Conscience (v. 12)

Principle: God has given every person a conscience as a warning system against moral compromise.

A) Defining your Conscience.

The conscience is an innate part of every person and a God-given warning system against moral compromise or sin. It distinguishes humans from all other earthly creatures. It is not to be confused with the Holy Spirit, but is influenced by the Holy Spirit in a Christ-follower.

B) Agitating your Conscience.

- 1) Sin
- 2) Inconsistent living
- 3) Insincere motives

C) Damaging your Conscience.

By repeatedly ignoring your conscience, you will become calloused toward the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

D) Elevating your Conscience

The conscience can be shaped and will warn to the highest moral standard one perceives.

II. Defense of a Clear Conscience (1:15-20)

Principle: A clear conscience will result in a calm spirit during troubled times.

A) Personal Criticism (1:15-16)

B) Personal Integrity (1:17-18).

C) Personal Defense (1:19-20)

III. Maintaining a Clear Conscience

Principle: A clear conscience must be maintained intentionally or a moral crash will result.

A) Confession

B) Purity

C) Sincerity

Conclusion