

Convenience - cont.

It is clear that some people today act from a sense of convenience. They will change the work, worship, and organization of the local church to meet the desires of the world (instrumental music, the Lord's supper on Saturday, etc.) – 2 Timothy 1:13. They will not preach on controversial subjects (denominationalism, M-D-R, worldliness, etc.) – 2 Timothy 4:2. They will not engage in institutionalism, but only because they are not large enough to do so. They will no longer believe that Christianity is the only way to God (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12). They will compromise the creation account to accommodate modern evolutionary science (Genesis 1-2). They will no longer be religious at all (Titus 1:15-16).

What Makes A Person Convicted?

We should all want to serve God and have a religion of conviction. What will it take to have this kind of religion? Early indoctrination in God's word will help (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15). Constant and consistent religious practice will help (Luke 2:27,42; 4:16). Deep-seated trust and understanding will help (2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 Peter 3:15). And, personal belief and persuasion will help (2 Timothy 1:12) - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- An atheist is person who is grateful but he has no one to thank.
- When you are content with a little, you possess much.
- When you have a good reason, you don't need a bad alibi.
- A preacher should fish for men rather than fish for a compliment.
- Put on a heart of compassion.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Conviction or Convenience?

Many people today are religious and serve God in some way. You probably serve God. That may be why you are reading this article. But, my question is this: Is your religion a religion of conviction, or convenience?

Conviction or Convenience?

What does convenience mean? It means “the state of being suited to one’s personal ease or comfort”. What does conviction mean? It means “the state of being convinced, a strong persuasion or belief”. So, in religious matters, is your service to God motivated by conviction or convenience? Are you serving God now only because it is easy to do so, or are you serving him from a strong, inner belief no matter how easy or hard it is.

Those Who Acted From Conviction

In the Bible, we have examples of people who served God out of a sense of conviction. They obeyed because of a strong, internal persuasion or belief. Abraham (Genesis 12:1; 22:1), Joseph (Genesis 39:9), Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:6-10), King David (2 Samuel 24:24), Daniel, Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego (Daniel 1:8; 3:17-18);

6:10), Mordecai and Esther (Esther 3:2; 4:16), Antipas (Revelation 2:10,13), and a few church members in Sardis (Revelation 3:4) are all good examples of people who served God out of a sense of conviction.

When We Act From Conviction



What happens to a person who serves God with conviction? First, that person will take a stand on God’s word, not tradition. Second, that person will always strive to please God, not man. Third, that person will receive persecution in this life, but heaven in the next.

It is clear that some people today have a religion of conviction. They stand for truth at all times (Proverbs 23:23), they attend all the church services when possi-

ble (Hebrews 10:25), they establish a sound church or travel great distances to worship with a sound church (Acts 19:9; 20:6), and they preach the whole counsel of God, including the negative (Acts 20:20,27).

Those Who Acted From Convenience

In the Bible, we also have examples of people who served God out of a sense of convenience. They obeyed because it was easy to do so, but then disobeyed when it was hard. King Saul (1 Samuel 13; 15), Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-29), the Pharisees (Matthew 15:3-9; 23:3-4,23-24, 25ff), Pilate (Luke 23:20-25), Peter (Galatians 2:11-14), and Felix (Acts 24:25) are good examples of people who acted out of convenience.

When We Act From Convenience

What happens to a person who serves from convenience? First, that person might neglect and compromise the truth. Second, that person might become lukewarm, apathetic, or inconsistent in their service (attendance, etc.). Third, that person might become worldly. - continued