

Guilt Versus Conviction - Search for Significance - Week 7

“Many years ago I was driven to the conclusion that the two major causes of most emotional problems among evangelical Christians are these: the failure to understand, receive, and live out God’s unconditional grace and forgiveness; and the failure to give out that unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace to other people.... We read, we hear, we believe a good theology of grace. But that’s not the way we live. The good news of the Gospel of grace has not penetrated the level of our emotions.”
-David Seamands

Objective fact of guilt vs. subjective feeling of guilt.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

A person can be guilty and not feel guilty. On the other side of the coin, a person may not be guilty truly, yet feel great guilt. “There is a difference in being guilty and feeling guilty.”

The difference in conviction and guilt...

Guilt views your sin as a change in your status before God. Conviction views your sin as your behavior before God

As it has been said, “Guilt says, ‘I am unworthy.’ Whereas conviction says, ‘This act is unworthy of Christ.’”

Romans 8:1, 33 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ... 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Guilt is the fleshly response to sin. Conviction is the spiritual response to sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Guilt says, “You are no different than you were before.” Conviction says, “You are a new person in Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Guilt demands that you pay the price. Conviction reminds you that Christ paid the price.

1 John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Guilt says, “You can’t go back to God until you get clean.” Conviction says, “Come to God and be made clean.”

Colossians 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled

in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Guilt seeks to bind you. Conviction seeks to free you.

2 Corinthians 7:11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

Conviction has your comfort in mind...not comfort as in "comfortable," but The Holy Spirit, the **Comforter, drawing alongside you to comfort and guide and show you the depth of forgiveness offered by God.**