

## **"Follow Your Conscience" is Not Always Good Advice** 54

You've heard people say, when asked about a certain thing, "Just follow your conscience." But one must remember that the conscience is not legislative; it is judicial. It does not make the laws; it only makes decisions based on its knowledge of the law. Therefore, if the conscience is not properly educated, then the man could follow his conscience in the wrong direction.

For instance, I've never been to a Catholic Mass, and my conscience does not bother me because I have been taught differently. On the other hand, if a good Catholic failed to attend Mass, his conscience might bother him, because he has been taught that one ought to go to Mass.

The only thing one can follow without getting into trouble is the Bible. A well-educated conscience is a very important thing to an individual. That is why parents must begin early to teach their children right from wrong. And this teaching must always be based on what the Bible says.

I could never get drunk because my conscience would bother me. Why? I was taught that drinking is wrong. I could never harm anyone physically. Why? Because my conscience would bother me. I was taught that we are

not to inflict physical harm on people. On the other hand, today people do what they call “drive-by shootings,” taking the lives of innocent people; and they never think anything about it. The problem is, they have never been taught morals based on the Bible. Therefore, their conscience doesn’t bother them; it doesn’t hurt them to see somebody else suffer.

So never say, “Follow your conscience”; always say, “Follow the Bible.” And keep your conscience well educated by reading the Bible so that you make the best decisions based on the knowledge of the law. The judge makes the decision after hearing the case.

Sometimes the case is appealed, and a higher court reverses the lower court’s decision because it had a better knowledge of the law than the lower court. It is impossible to overstress the importance of a well educated conscience.