

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #1) Creation

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #2) Wisdom

- Proverbs 1:20-23 – 20 Out in the open, wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; 21 on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech: 22 “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? 23 Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.”

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #3) Your Conscience

- Proverbs 1:20-23 – 20 Out in the open, wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; 21 on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech: 22 “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? 23 Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.”
- “conscience” = from Latin for “with” + “knowing” (con + science)... The Greek word (syneidēsis), used in the Bible, is the same
 - 3 Elements of Conscience in Greek and Roman Philosophy
 - 1) Knowing with yourself: an inner awareness of your own actions
 - 2) Knowing with God (or some other higher standard): a sense that your actions are “witnessed” by a higher standard or moral truth
 - 3) Knowing with others: knowledge of right and wrong that is shared between people
 - God has put within us an ability to know His standards of right and wrong
- Three Ways God Speaks Through Your Conscience
 - Romans 2:14-15 – 14 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.
 - John 8:9 [NKJV] – Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
 - 2 Samuel 24:10 – David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”
 - 1) Your conscience warns you to not do the wrong thing you were thinking about doing
 - 2) Your conscience shows you when you already did the wrong thing that you shouldn't have done
 - 3) Your conscience convicts you to do the right thing
- An Opportunity to Choose Right or Wrong
 - Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira
 - The Danger of a Seared Conscience
 - 1 Timothy 4:2 – hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
 - “seared” = kautēriazó = cauterized... If a wound won't heal, you cauterize it by applying hot metal, which seals the wound and stops the bleeding
 - A side-effect is that the nerves are killed, so you have no feeling

- Branded = this word is the same word used for branding, like ranchers brand their cattle... and slaveholders branded their slaves
- God Can Cleanse Your Guilty Conscience
 - Acts 24:16 – I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.
 - How is it possible that Paul could say he always tried to keep a good conscience?
 - 1 Corinthians 4:4 – My conscience is clear...
 - lit. “I know nothing against myself”
 - Hebrews 9:14 – How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
 - 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- The Goal is Love
 - 1 Timothy 1:5 – The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.