



Little Foxes: Session 2 | Condemnation  
Pastor Dale Campbell

**I. SERIES REVIEW**

A. Song of Solomon 2:15

- **NKJV:** Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes.
- **Literal Standard Version:** Seize for us the foxes, Little foxes – DESTROYERS of vineyards, even our sweet-smelling vineyards.
- **GNT:** Catch the foxes, the little foxes, **before** they ruin our vineyard in bloom

B. **Little foxes** – little things have the potential to destroy or hinder your harvest.

1. Spoil: to destroy – to corrupt – to ruin – or to withhold
2. Little foxes have the potential to completely destroy your harvest or to hinder it, so you never receive the fullness of it.

**II. THE LITTLE FOX OF CONDEMNATION**

A. Condemnation

1. An accusation
2. The act of judicially condemning
3. The state of being condemned
4. Condemned = to declare wrong or evil; To pronounce guilty – also to officially declare unfit for use.

B. 1 John 3:20-23

- **NKJV:** “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”



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- **NLT:** Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.
  - **HCSB:** Dear friends, if our conscience doesn't condemn us, we have confidence before God and can receive whatever we ask from Him because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight
- C. If our conscience is clear before God – we have boldness to receive from Him in prayer.
1. If our heart/conscience is condemned - we will not have the boldness needed for our faith to receive from Him.
  2. Many people struggle to receive from the Lord because the little fox of condemnation is at work in their life.
    - a. Some are condemned because of an ongoing sin issue
    - b. Some are condemned because of sins of the past
    - c. Some are condemned because of their self-perception.
  3. God does not work through condemnation. He does work through conviction. There is a difference.
- D. Romans 8:1
- **KJV:** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- E. John 8:10-11
- **NKJV:** When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."



F. John 3:17

- **NKJV:** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**III. CONDEMNATION VS. CONVICTION**

A. Condemnation declares a guilty sentence.

1. With condemnation comes all of the emotions associated with a declaration of being guilty: *Guilt, shame, disgust, unworthiness, unfit, disqualified*
2. Condemnation creates a feeling of heaviness and sorrow
3. Condemnation leads to a desire to quit and give up
4. Condemnation never encourages and strengthens anyone.

B. Conviction from a biblical sense creates an awareness of actions that need our attention.

1. Conviction often highlights a specific action in our life that needs to be addressed.
2. Conviction provides a way out – condemnation does not.
3. Conviction addresses the sin – condemnation addresses the person.
4. Conviction offers hope – condemnation brings hopelessness.

C. The confusion of conviction and condemnation.

1. Many people who are thought to be under conviction are actually under condemnation.

**Pastor's Note:** *Many times we see people come to church who have rejected Christ repeatedly. Someone will say, "They are under conviction." This is usually due to the uncomfortable state that is evident in that person while in*



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*church. Actually many of these people are beyond that state of conviction. They are actually feeling condemnation because they have repeatedly rejected the Lord's dealings.*

2. Conviction doesn't have to be heavy:

**Pastor's Note:** *When the convicting presence of the Holy Spirit deals with us about specific behaviors, we can quickly respond and repent or correct our actions – There is a sense of JOY in knowing – we can correct our course of action. As an eight-year-old,<sup>4</sup> the Lord dealt with me to be saved. I never experienced heavy conviction because I instantly responded to the call. Had I not responded, my conviction would have turned to condemnation.*

D. Why Condemnation?

1. Unconfessed/unrepented sin. This is **NOT** the issues that show up in our life unexpectedly from time to time. This is sin that has become a pattern or lifestyle that we have refused to deal with.
2. Holding on to things that God says you must let go of will lead to strong condemnation – this will hinder your faith and ability to receive freely from the Lord. Whenever we are unwilling to respond to the conviction and dealings of the Holy Spirit, we will experience condemnation.
  - a. **Mark 10:20-22**
    - **NKJV:** And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you



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will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

**PASTOR’S NOTE:** *There was conviction working within this man, - a zeal to serve God. When Jesus revealed to him something he needed to do – his rejection changed his conviction into condemnation. Notice he went away sorrowful. Condemnation and sorrow go together. If he had responded rightly to his conviction – he would have left with JOY.*

3. Guilt because of past sins. Many people experience condemnation due to past sins. They struggle to accept God’s forgiveness and grace in past failures.
  - a. **Rev 12:10**
    - **NLT:** Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night”
    - **AMP:** He who accuses them *and* keeps bringing charges [of sinful behavior] against them before our God day and night.
  - b. One of Satan’s most effective devices is to continually accuse you, bringing up your past sins.
    - a. *This creates feelings of unworthiness*
    - b. *This promotes self-condemnation*



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- c. *This stalls your spiritual progress*
- d. *This renders you powerless in using your authority*
- c. The remedy for condemnation related to past sins is to receive God's forgiveness once and for all by faith.

a. **1 John 1:9**

**NKJV:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

**AMP:** If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us *continually* from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]

b. **Psalm 103:12**

**NKJV:** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us

**CEV:** How far has the LORD taken our sins from us? Farther than the distance from east to west!

c. **Heb 8:12**

**NKJV:** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more

**Pastor's Note:** *If God is so willing to forgive us and remember our sins no more, we should quickly embrace His forgiveness and equally refuse to bring our own sin up again. If Satan brings it up, quickly remind him of your forgiveness - **REMIND HIM OF HIS OWN SIN!***



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4. Failure to embrace our new identity in Christ. *Our new identity in Christ completely does away with our old self. In addition, our new identity in Christ declares us RIGHTEOUS. I need to be more righteous conscious even in my weaknesses than I am sin conscious or failure conscious. The new me is not perfect yet, but because of my new identity, the Holy Spirit is at work daily in me perfecting the Will of God for my life.*

- a. **2 Cor 5:21**

**AMP:** He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness].

- b. **Isaiah 54:17**

**NKJV:** No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness *is* from Me," Says the LORD.

#### E. Closing Thoughts

1. *Regardless of the reason for condemnation, identify it and drive it out. It is a little fox that will hinder or destroy the harvest God has for you!*
2. *Meditate daily in who the Bible says you are in Christ!*
3. *Meditate daily in what the Bible says you can do!*
4. *If there is unrepented sin in your life and there is a struggle to break free, ask the Lord for supernatural strength to overcome it. Meditate in the Word regarding that particular sin issue. God never tells us to do anything that He doesn't empower us to do.*