

## Early Warning Signal

A mother was helping her son one day with his spelling assignment, and they came to the words *conscious* and *conscience*. She asked her son, "Do you know the difference between those two words?"

He immediately replied, "Sure, Mom. *Conscious* is when you are aware of something, and *conscience* is when you wish you weren't."

Indeed, the conscience is like a sharp, square peg in our hearts. When we are confronted by a situation that calls for a right-or-wrong decision, that square begins to turn. Its corner cuts into our hearts, warning us with an inward "knowing" that we are facing a situation in which we must make a choice against evil and for good.

If the conscience is ignored time after time, however, the corners of the square are gradually worn down and it becomes a circle that twists and turns at will. When that circle turns within our hearts, there is no inner sensation of warning. In effect, we are left without a conscience.

A sound conscience is truly a gift from God. Heed its warning signals early and you will be spared much pain and heartache.

*Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.* (Titus 1:15)

--Beecher Hunter