

Searching for a Conscience

Series: In God We Trust

July 12, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Some of us have heard the old saying, “*Let your conscience be your guide.*” Our conscience dictates our thinking of what we *ought* and *ought not* to do. Families have a collective conscience. In the same way, small to large organizations and businesses all have a corporate conscience. But is there such a thing as a national conscience? If so, what governs the national conscience of our nation? Popular demand? The *will of the people*? Or perhaps, is there something else?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, define what a motto is. Give some examples of various mottos that you are familiar with. Do you have a personal or family motto? If so, please share with the group.
2. How would you define conscience? Please give an example of how your conscience determined your actions individually and maybe as a family.
3. How have you seen God removed from issues of state and politics? How have you seen God included in issues of state and politics? Do you feel that God should be included in these issues? Why or why not?
4. Given the references to God in several of America’s historical documents, and even in the worldview of our nation’s founding leaders, what kind of role should the Christian religion play in affairs of the state?
5. Why do think that accountability to God and God-talk has fallen out of favor in our culture? Do you feel that this has affected the moral fabric of our country? Why or why not?
6. If we eliminate God from the national conversation, what else might begin to shape the national conscience? In what ways can that be a positive or a negative thing?

CONCLUSION

By eliminating God from the national conversation, every person will do what is right in their own eyes. Consequently, the law will replace what God has already spoken to us in our conscience. It’s interesting that we as a nation tend to turn back to God during times of crisis, and yet we tend to ignore Him during times of prosperity and plenty. What our country needs now more than ever is a deep sense of gratitude and accountability towards our Creator God. As the Church, our prayers should be that we as nation would have the courage and conviction to move God back into the center of our national conscience.

“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.” – Romans 2:14-15