

MEN OF CONVICTION

Genesis 39:2–12

Slap heard around the world- will smith open hand slapped Chris Rock during the oscars last week- interesting the day after will smith issued an apology that said **"There is no place for violence in a world of love and kindness."** Smith added in his post that, **"Violence in all forms is poisonous and destructive."** **"Love will make you do crazy things"**

Problem was his beliefs did not fall inline with his behavior

Critical need for every man of God is convictions: A conviction is a settled belief - applies to many areas of life but especially in the area of sin- how you view God and the reality of sin will effect your destiny.

I. A CHANGING WORLD

A. Moving the goal post - phrase used today / what was established and solid is now up for debate

1. Reality of living in a sinful world - it is in a constant state of decline
 - a) The difference between wrong and right is constantly changing / becomes a gray area
 - b) Secular humanism - what ever is true for you is true for you and what ever is true for me is true for me
2. Media/ entertainment/ culture - what's important- whats right and wrong
 - a) Standing up against sin is met with resistance and opposition.

B. The worlds opinion of sin

1. Living in a fallen world - the goal is to normalize sin/ make it acceptable

Luke 17:26—26 *And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*

Genesis 6:5—5 *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

C. Christianity today - Sin is rarely preached against/ altar calls are uncommon/ there is no challenge against the sin nature of man

1. This spirit has infiltrated the church
 - a) meet people who claim to be christians but their lifestyle does not match their belief
2. The Goal - Christian men never develop solid convictions about sin

1 Corinthians 5:1—2—1 *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.*

a) Paul points out here that there have been things done in the church that are absolutely unacceptable - how did they get to this point? Sin was not taken seriously

II. THE LIE FROM HELL

A. Sin doesn't matter

1. Conduct is disconnected from relationship
 - a) When we separate our behavior from our claim to being a Christian - then sin does not matter
 - b) I can live how I want/ do what I want and God will be ok with me still

1 John 1:6—6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

Romans 6:1—2—1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

2. Gods blessing validates sinful behavior

2 *The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand*

- a) I'm blessed / God is obviously helping me/ God approves of my behavior because things are going well
3. God has changed his mind about sin
 - a) A conviction is a settled belief / a man with no convictions will believe things about God that are not true

B. What others don't see does not matter

1. Our Text: Joseph says How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God- not the Egyptian, not the other servants in the house or even the Egyptians wife
 - a) As a man off God we must understand that every thought and action we commit in this life is seen by God

- b) Seen men who have involved themselves in secret sin and because they world does not explode immediately - they continue in that.
- 2. Character is defined as who you are when no one is looking
 - a) Joseph is alone with this woman - he could have done anything he wanted and no person in the house would have known about it.
 - b) This is always the lie of sin- your involvement in sin will not hurt anyone

11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside.

- c) This is the temptation for men today- we have access to all sorts of evil right in the palm of our hand

C. The Need for convictions

- 1. Conviction - Settled belief in something
 - a) Means that regardless of outside influence or temptations - we will not be moved from these convictions

9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- (1) Again- Joseph understood that his actions impacted his relationship with God first
- b) Very Practical - when you hear preaching and there is a pull upon your heart/ you feel bad for choices you've been making - at an altar you can come and get that right / God convicts and shows us something is wrong so that we can deal with it.
- 2. Convictions keep us in right relationship with God
 - a) Our text outlines the blessing that Joseph experienced because he kept his heart right / made right decisions

III. MEN OF CONVICTIONS

A. Developing Convictions

- 1. Convictions flow from a right relationship with God
 - a) When we see God correctly - then we see this world and ourselves correctly / Joseph understood this
 - b) When I choose to do right - God notices and God will bless me for that.
- 2. Convictions are strengthened when we say no to sin
 - a) Determine in your life what has been non-negotiables/ Its not even up for debate/ there will be no compromise on this issue - when it comes to sin- we must settle this in our hearts and minds

1 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

- b) We don't negotiate with terrorists, children or sin - this has to be in the heart of every man of God
- 3. Godly convictions are developed as we make Godly decisions
 - a) Christianity is going in the same direction for long haul - settling this in your spirit - I'm going to do right
 - b) Convictions are not just saying no to certain things/ Convictions are also developed when we say yes to certain things
 - c) I'm going to say no to sin and carnality/ I'm going to say yes to praying reading my bible and coming to church.

B. The Blessing of Convictions

- 1. Convictions protect our future
 - a) Think of what could have been lost if Joseph made the decisions to sleep with this women
 - b) Joseph later on in this story is made second in command to the entire nation of Egypt - and is the key to saving the nation and his whole family.
 - c) Convictions are able to show us the future - what's at stake and give us perspective
- 2. Our convictions bless other people
 - a) Josephs decision to do right and hold on to his convictions eventually lead to him saving his family and an entire nation
- 3. Convictions will accelerate your destiny
 - a) Biblical principle - If God can trust you with something small and your are faithful then God is able to trust you with even more.

- (1) If God could depend on Joseph to make the right choices when sin would be easy and no one was looking then God could trust and bless Joseph when the weight of a nation was upon him.