

## Lecture 7 – The Standards of the Christian Life (Part III)

*The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. I Timothy 1:5 (NIV)*

*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, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. Romans 2:14-15 (NIV)*

### Key Terms

Holy Spirit, conscience, discernment, subordination

### Objectives

- \*Explain the role that conscience plays in directing us in grace.
- \*Distinguish between the role of the Holy Spirit and the role of conscience.
- \*Express the biblical basis for the role of conscience.

## The Standards (Direction) of the Christian Life (Part III)

### I. The Direction of Grace (cont.)

#### C. Cardinal virtues and cardinal sins

1. Humility (Matthew 11:29) / Pride (Ezekiel 16:49)
2. Thankfulness (from Joy) / Envy (James 3:16)
3. Patience, Gentleness (from Peace) / Anger (Ephesians 4:31)
4. Faithfulness / Sloth (Hebrews 6:12)
5. Mercy, Goodness / Avarice (I Timothy 6:10)
6. Kindness / Gluttony (Philippians 3:19)
7. Self-control / Lust (Ephesians 4:19)

*Note: There is a unity in the fruit of the Spirit that is lacking in the list of sins.*

#### D. The leading of the Holy Spirit

1. Galatians 5:16-25

#### E. The role of conscience

1. I Timothy 1:5

[Excursus: Knowledge of the Moral Law]

#### A. Thesis: one moral law, known in two ways

1. Naturally
2. Scripturally

#### B. Biblical basis: Romans 2:14-15

#### C. Historical development of natural law

#### D. Contemporary relevance

1. Three components of social transformation
  - a. Personal renewal
  - b. Ecclesial practice
  - c. Structural reform
2. Various arguments/examples
  - a. Christianity as impetus for enhanced understanding of moral law
  - b. Baby Doe case