

Ray Comfort Commentary

Date: 3.10.2010

Day: Wednesday

Air Time: 7:08 am

Feature Title: 'An atheist's Conscience'

Bio: Ray Comfort is the best-selling author of more than 60 books. He also co-hosts an award winning television program with actor Kirk Cameron.

More Info: If you would like a transcript of, or would like to listen to this commentary again, go to www.mornings.fm, where both the transcript and audio will be posted later this morning. You can also share your thoughts by sending an email to mornings@moody.edu

'An atheist's Conscience'

An atheist once wrote to me and said "I have a perfectly functional conscience. It nags me when I don't give time and money to charity, it demands that I tell the truth when telling a lie would be more convenient, it (for the most part) holds me back from saying cruel-yet-witty things even when I dearly want to... And yet, oddly enough, my conscience has absolutely nothing to say on the subject of my atheism. Now why is that? Is my conscience broken, or is your definition just bogus?"

I wrote back that his question brought up a very important point. I said

"You acknowledge that your conscience addresses you in the area of morality. It accuses you of selfishness (failing to fulfill the Law that says you should love your neighbor as yourself—giving to charities, being kind, etc.). It accuses you when you lie—violating the Ninth Commandment. This is because God has written 'the work of the Law' on your heart, so that your conscience will accuse you of transgression of that Law (see Romans 2:15). However, the reason your conscience has nothing to say about your atheism is that atheism is not a moral issue. It's an intellectual issue. If I were to lie or steal, my conscience would scream at me. But if I said something that was intellectually stupid, like one and one make five, the conscience would remain silent. The same applies with the foolishness of atheism."

Nothing stirs the conscience like God's Law (the Ten Commandments). It's like a powerful puff of wind that stirs up the dust of sin in the human heart. It tells us that

we are not morally good. Most of the world would disagree with that statement, but Jesus said that there is no one good but God.

Anyone who says that human beings are good is calling Jesus a liar. And the belief that we are morally good will prevail as long as the Law is not used to bring the knowledge of sin and to show sin to be “exceedingly sinful.”

One of the reasons this generation is so self righteous is because many within the Church have preached Gospel that simply says “Jesus loves you,” something for which there is no precedent in Scripture. Wherever the love of Christ is preached, it’s almost always in direct co-relation to the Cross (see John 3:16; Romans 5:8; etc.), and the Cross makes no sense without mentioning sin, and sin makes no sense without preaching the Law, for “sin is transgression of the Law” (see 1 John 3:4).

I thought I was a good person until I understood that in God’s Book, “good” means to be morally perfect. The only just rule by which we can measure our morality is by the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are like a mirror in which we can see our sin; we can see how deeply we fail God. It was through the moral Law that I found that God considers lust to be adultery, and hatred to be murder. When I measured myself by *that* standard, I realized I am not good at all.

It’s also not surprising that the atheist has kind words for the Christian who talks about God’s love rather than of sin. This is because he is not offended by his message. However, to fail to warn sinners of the terrible consequences of sin (damnation in Hell), and to instead tell them that they are good people, is the ultimate betrayal.

“For Moody Radio I’m Ray Comfort...and THESE are my thoughts.”