

# Building Convictions

A conviction is a firmly held belief or the state of being convinced of something. It has been said that a conviction is a belief strong enough to live it. Convictions are more than just an opinion. They are a persuasion that has the power to make us change the way we live. True conviction does not come from being told what to believe or what to do; it is born through prayer, self-reflection and meditation, and a thirst for the truth. It is a personal thing that requires effort and sacrifice to acquire.

Godly convictions are the Christian's building blocks. A godly conviction will never be out of line with the leading of the Spirit. A conviction that is of God will not cause divisions with our Christian brothers and sisters. A godly conviction will always retain the spirit of unity and charity. It is not uncommon for convictions to vary slightly from Christian to Christian. However, these minor variations do not mean a lack of unity or that a conviction is not valid. Unity does not stumble at variety; rather, it thrives on the harmonious beauty found in variety. It is when we find that our convictions seem to destroy the peace that flows between us and our brethren that we should be concerned.

Let us seek to establish convictions that are built on the Word of God and Spirit of Christ.

“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3).

## Questions

1. How can we teach our children to develop godly convictions?
2. Is avoiding watching television a conviction?
3. What is the relationship between conference decisions and convictions?
4. How can we undo a conviction that we find to be at odds with the majority of our brethren?
5. What is the key to living a conviction that is slightly different from those around us without breaking the bond of unity? (Examples: having the conviction that our children's curfew should be half an hour earlier than the curfew of their peers or being more plain with vehicles or home furnishings.)
6. Do you need to have conviction to be saved?
7. It is sometimes said, “With money comes new light.” Why would our convictions change when there is more money available?
8. How similar should our convictions be?
9. Do our convictions need to be Holy Spirit inspired?
10. Do we need conviction on recreation?
11. Concerning conference decisions, especially about photography and recorded music:
  - A. Should the use of photography be a personal conviction? Do we need to understand the reasons for not using photography in certain circumstances or simply abstain as a matter of respect?
  - B. Our children hear us say “for business purposes” when discussing photography. Do

they know what our convictions are on the matter? Is it necessary for our children to hear us teach on photography?

- C. Do we leave mixed signals when it comes to recorded music?
  - D. Do you feel more conviction is needed for other conference decisions?
12. The conviction on watching videos varies greatly among us. Whether it be YouTube or news videos, where are the lines we should not cross?
  13. What is the appropriate response if our convictions are challenged by changing times? For example, if a brother has a strong conviction against the use of the smartphone or internet but soon finds himself alone in his conviction, while nearly all of his brethren move ahead with the change of times.

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