

Series: **Stronger in Character: A Good Name**
Topic: **Beyond Sunday Christianity**
Teacher: **Pastor Godman Akinlabi**
Texts: **1 Timothy 1:18 – 20 (Amp); 2 Timothy 2:19 (Amp); Romans 12:1 – 2 (NLT)**
Date: **Sunday, 10th June, 2018**

Having a good name is a choice to be made. It is not something to be left to chance but a choice you need to make consciously. You have to choose whether you want to have a good name or a bad name and decide what legacy you want to leave behind (Proverbs 22:1, NLT).

Some people's hearts are no longer open to the Word of God. There is a way that you can adapt your conscience to your environment. However, you can also allow your conscience receive signals from somewhere else so that it is not conditioned by your environment but rather conditions your environment. There are several examples of the former in our country today, where a lot of people are making cases to justify moral decadence. We are getting used to hearing a lot of these cases but they are a result of a lack of conscience. We should not give any excuses for bad behaviour; environmental influences are certainly not a good enough excuse.

As a Christian, the Word of God and the Blood of Jesus cannot lead you astray. The Blood of Jesus purges our consciences from dead works, however, if you refuse to allow it to do so you will grow in dead works. After a while, your conscience would become dead and seared; you would do evil without feeling it and the word of God would have no effect on your heart. You cannot live in God's perfect will for your life this way.

There are some important questions that we must all ask ourselves:

1. Is there a time that integrity doesn't matter? – According to scripture, it matters all the time – even when you are in a fix; because God can prove that He can get you out of that situation.
2. Would you renounce Christ for a free pass? – This seems to be one of the easiest things for Christians to do. When you enjoy the 'free passes' and get used to them, you end up growing and growing in such acts until they become part of you.
3. What has happened to your conscience? - Let your light shine. How do you beam your light if you join forces with darkness? We in the church have allowed our consciences to become callused and are joining forces with the forces of darkness to intensify the darkness instead of letting our lights shine.

Regardless of where you are now, all you need to do is desire growth in the right direction and to take better decisions. God expects us to keep growing and improving. Therefore, you need to be more than a religious person; you need to be godly as religion and godliness are two different things. God's power is at work within us to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13), and that same power is available to us, not only for healing and miracles, but also to help us grow in character as well. You should also seek the power of God to be stronger in character and to raise your conscience from the dead so that you will begin to feel the power of God in you.

When you submit your life to Jesus you are a new born, however your world view has been shaped by the events and circumstances of your past life. But now that you are in Christ, be transformed by the renewing – making new again – of your mind (Roman 12:1 – 2). In order to live a sound Christian life you have to overwrite your ‘files’ with the word of God. It takes a commitment to the renewing of your mind for you to enjoy a godly walk with God. You have to be aware of the band wagon effect – which is a psychological phenomenon that makes people do things primarily because others are doing them, regardless of their own beliefs which they may ignore and override.

There are two (2) tests of character:

1. Adversity: This is a test of stability as it pushes people to helplessness leading desperation (Proverbs 24:10, Job 13:15 – 16).
2. Prosperity: This is a test of integrity. Job was rich and righteous; he passed the test of prosperity.