



Your story matters.



IS THERE A TENSION THAT DESERVES MY ATTENTION?

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MYRC.CHURCH

better decisions
fewer regrets

"IS THERE A TENSION THAT DESERVES MY ATTENTION?"

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Note Ephesians 5:15-17

That tension we sense is a gift from God we commonly call
_____.

Note 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 3:16

We cannot have a _____ conscience if we ignore it.

Note Hebrews 11:32

1. Let's Make Sure We Have a _____ Picture of Samson

Samson seems like an easy person to identify as some kind of muscle-bound idiot with character flaws _____ out of every pore.

- A. His _____ was miraculous (note Judges 13:2) - announced by an _____ (note Judges 13:3).
- B. God's _____ was upon his life before he was even conceived.
- C. He's the first identified _____.
- D. God gave him incredible physical strength for the purpose of delivering Israel from an _____ nation...during the _____ days of Israel's history as a nation
(note Judges 14:6, 19a; 15:14-15).

There was much to admire about Samson, and in many ways, he was a
_____ of Christ.

Note Hebrews 11:32-34

2. But Samson _____ Paid Attention to the Tension

Despite God's call, empowerment, and equipping for leadership in very challenging times, Samson's life and legacy is seen by most people as a _____ of God's gifts and grace.

...because when it came to his _____ appetite, Samson ignored his conscience.

He ignored his _____ advice (Judges 14:1-4).

But this revealed in Samson not just a one-off lack of judgment, but a weakness that would come to _____ his life and legacy...

So Samson fell into a pattern of his _____, and his pride and his passions kept propelling him towards disaster (note Judges 14:15-17; 16:4-6).

Am I making better decisions so I can have fewer regrets?:

- God isn't looking for _____ people, because there aren't any.
- But not listening to his God-given conscience, not *paying attention to the tension* leaves any honest person studying and reviewing his life and legacy to throw up their hands in wonder, *How could he be a person of faith but also lack character and integrity?*
- Reality is like Samson, we can be people of faith in many ways, but in one or more parts of our life not pay attention to the tension/our conscience.
- Blind spots are _____ to see in others; but _____ to see in ourselves.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

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SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: What's the most interesting thing that you've learned in the past week?

1. Take some time to discuss chapter 4, *The Conscience Question*, as you get started.
2. Andy Stanley references a “red flag moment” where we just know that something is...off. The Bible calls that our conscience. (1 Timothy 1:5, 1 Peter 3:16) Share some examples of how your conscience has saved the day for you.
3. What were some of the advantages that Samson had going for him which should have set him up for success? Judges 13:2-3, 21-25, 14:6, 19a, 15:14-15
4. What are some of the advantages that God has given you to work with in your life that have set you up for success?
5. Samson made it a life long practice to ignore good counsel and his own conscience when it came to relationships with women and exercising good judgment. Judges 14:1-4, 15-17 & 16:4-6 How are you making sure that you don't go down the same road that Samson travelled?
6. While we aren't ever going to be perfect, paying attention to our conscience will enable us to live with fewer regrets. Who are the voices in your life that you pay attention to, enabling you to see your blind spots and make necessary changes?

- ❑ ***Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets—Chapter 4***
(pages 89-114)
- ❑ **1 Samuel 24; Psalm 142**

WEEKLY READING

better decisions
fewer regrets

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1. Let's Make Sure We Have a Whole Picture of Samson

Samson seems like an easy person to identify as some kind of muscle-bound idiot with character flaws oozing out of every pore.

- A. His birth was miraculous (note Judges 13:2) - announced by an angel (note Judges 13:3).
- B. God's call was upon his life before he was even conceived.
- C. He's the first identified Nazarite.
- D. God gave him incredible physical strength for the purpose of delivering Israel from an oppressing nation...during the darkest days of Israel's history as a nation (note Judges 14:6, 19a; 15:14-15).

There was much to admire about Samson, and in many ways, he was a type of Christ.

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2. But Samson Rarely Paid Attention to the Tension

Despite God's call, empowerment, and equipping for leadership in very challenging times, Samson's life and legacy is seen by most people as a waste of God's gifts and grace.

...because when it came to his sexual appetite, Samson ignored his conscience.

He ignored his parent's advice (Judges 14:1-4).

But this revealed in Samson not just a one-off lack of judgment, but a weakness that would come to define his life and legacy...

So Samson fell into a pattern of his own making, and his pride and his passions kept propelling him towards disaster (note Judges 14:15-17; 16:4-6).

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