

May 29, 1994, HakamBoston

Conscience Clause

The teaching on “conscience clause” (refer to the May 29, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Teaching — “About the Conscience Clause”) was so good because it made it clear that there is a standard in the conscience that cannot be violated even when civil laws are opposed or contradictory to the standard embedded within the conscience. This conscience clause is something we need to have confidence in, take our stand on, and rely on in every situation. This is how our Father will be able to vindicate and protect us, by being true to our conscience and using the conscience clause even legally to take a stand.

For example, in the case of Stephen and Laurie Wooten. We should put this question to judges or law enforcement officers — “If evidence had been given in court that showed how Laurie was grossly immoral (sleeping with 25 to 30 men in one month’s time) and that she had sex with a man that she knew had AIDS — would it have affected your decision in granting her access to his children? In other words, would her proven, admitted behavior disqualify her, in your eyes, from being worthy to visit his children? Do you see any danger or potential hazard to the children from her actions? Would you disqualify her as an unfit mother because of her irresponsible action — knowingly subjecting herself sexually to AIDS and refusing to get tested before demanding to see her children before this court (which takes 3 to 6 months to set up)?” If the court’s decision on this matter was “No,” then our response should be — “I rest my case.” In such a case it is clear that the standard in the civil law and in the conscience of the judge is far less than God’s standard. Therefore, Stephen Wooten and we are justified before God — we have a good conscience and we stand on the “conscience clause” in the law that people should respect in not co-operating with the government to find Stephen. It’s like Hannah Newsong with Juan. She knew he was a sexual child abuser, but the court wouldn’t believe or acknowledge it. It took ten years to prove that what was in her was right. She claimed the “conscience clause” in court, but the law didn’t accommodate her and it took ten years for justice to prevail in her case, even though what was in her conscience at the time of her case proved itself to be true. And the same will prove to be true in Stephen Wooten’s case. History is full of people who took such stands. At the time they were ridiculed, but later they were vindicated. Such actions have sometimes changed the course of history. May it be so with us. Taking such a stand is the only way our God could ever vindicate us and keep us pure.