

## SMALL GROUP LESSON

### DON'T LET YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE

ROMANS 2:11-16 AND PSALM 19

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

There are only two questions for you to reflect upon this week. However, they are important questions. For example, in 1991 Clarence Thomas was nominated to become a Supreme Court Justice. His nomination was approved by a slim majority in the Senate, 52 to 48. Why was his nomination so contentious? He believed in natural law, a philosophical principle that was embraced by our nation's forefathers and which is proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. Those who opposed his nomination doubted its existence and believed that natural law should never be invoked in judicial decisions, especially those of the nation's highest court. Likewise, we've all heard this phrase, "Let your Conscience be your guide." Is that trustworthy advice or can our consciences lead us astray? So take some time to review our pastor's sermon (<http://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/sermons/weekly-sermons-text.html>) and these passages of Scripture—Romans 2:11-16, Mark 7:18-20, Romans 1:26, 1 Corinthians 11:14, and Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Now tackle these two questions.

1. What is natural law and do you believe it actually exists? Can you think of anything in the Bible or in the cultural traditions of humanity that might support the possibility of its existence? This would be a good time to do a little research on the internet.
2. What does it mean when someone says, "Let your conscience be your guide," and how is your conscience like a smoke detector in your home? What has happened when someone has "hardened their heart?"

### BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN SMALL GROUP CONTACT LIST

Listed below are the four small groups currently meeting with their leader's names and contact information and meeting day. Please contact group leaders for time and location. You are welcome to join the group of your choice!

John & Judy Blair – Meets Sunday Evenings  
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