Conviction versus opinion

As a Pastor I try with the help of the Holy Spirit to preach conviction and not just opinion. Conviction is something that never allows the flesh to feel comfortable. In fact it will resist it. Many times when I am preparing a message for the people I will ask The Holy Spirit if He really wants me to speak this. My flesh usually fights it because when I preach something I am accountable to live it myself. Times when I have watered down a word that I know Holy Spirit is prompting me to give, I have gone away from the pulpit feeling unfulfilled and cheated. Probably the people have felt the same. The uncompromised word should make people feel uncomfortable. That is the sign that the word is having effect in us. Just a feel good message alone isn’t enough to do the work in us that is necessary. There are times that the Holy Spirit prompts me to give a feel good pillowy message, but I also realize that if all people got was that, it would produce anaemic Christians.

When people agree with our opinions it makes us feel good, and accepted. When we run into conviction, it isn’t always something that makes us feel good, but if received right will challenge us for change. Opinions aren’t always biblically based, but are experientially based. Conviction will always have a biblical foundation under it that can’t be argued. It is dangerous to say that conviction is opinion. When we do we are fighting against God’s word.
Attributes of conviction and opinion:

Conviction- Crucifies our flesh, and doesn’t justify it. It makes us look directly into ourselves and motives for what we are doing and strips away our excuses. It doesn’t need a whole lot of scriptures to prove itself. It speaks and is true.

Opinions- Pacify our flesh, justifies its actions because it feels good or is comfortable. It doesn’t like change so it searches for justification. It even uses scriptures to prove itself.

A good example of this is when The Pharisees came to Jesus concerning the issue of divorce. They wanted to find loopholes in the word to justify the practice of divorce. They said “Moses issued a certificate of divorce” Jesus replied to them “because of the hardness of your heart Moses allowed this but from the beginning it wasn’t so.”

Another example comes to us in Christians justifying not attending church services. They say that God goes with us wherever we go. Church is everywhere. I’m sorry to say that church isn’t everywhere.

When our opinion gets in the way of truth and obedience, truth and obedience wins every time. The word commands us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Church is about more than just attending, but assembling. That means that we come together for more than just fellowship but for function. We have all been given gifts that God intended for us to
use for the benefit of the body as a whole not just for us to keep to ourselves. Someone might say pastor Marlin that’s just your opinion, no that is Bible, and conviction causes me to right this article to challenge people to step higher than just opinions, and get some hard core convictions.

The Bible doesn’t always tell us specifically what we should or shouldn’t be doing, but the Spirit of Conviction will. For example, when we are doing something that is harmful to our physical body we know automatically it is wrong. When we do something to our Spirit that is harmful we should also know that it is wrong.

The Bible doesn’t say that smoking is a sin, yet we know that it is harmful. The Bible commands us not to defile or harm our bodies in any way. If by our liberty in Christ we cause someone to fall, and if we do it knowingly, it is sin. We are not to use our liberty as a tool to hurt or harm someone else’s conscience. That’s not opinion, but Bible. When we are bold enough to declare it, it is conviction.

A cocaine addict didn’t get to that point all in one shot. I can almost guarantee you that it started out small and very innocent. Likely with the use of Gateway Drugs like alcohol, nicotine etc. The reason I as a Pastor do not justify even the use of gateway drugs is because I see the way the devil uses the seemingly innocent things to draw people into something more. The little foxes spoil the vine.

I’ve heard many say: “I know my limit and I can control it” The Bible says when you think you stand take heed lest
you fall. The other thing in this is you aren’t supposed to be in control, God is.

In the Spirit of God is where you will find conviction. It is the soul of Man that functions with opinions. The Opinions of man can never take us higher in the things of God. Only when we operate in the conviction power of the Spirit can we get to the place God is leading us to.