

CONSCIENCE, CONSCIENCES

Job couldn't see his sin. Even though he wasn't guilty of the sins his friends accused him of committing, he *was* guilty of claiming that God was wrong and he was right. Yet apparently his **conscience** hadn't convicted him of that and he didn't recognize that as a sin.

- **Job 27:6:** "My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live."

The reason the scribes and Pharisees didn't throw stones at the woman who was caught in the act of adultery was because they were convicted by their own **conscience**.

- **John 8:9:** "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

It seems Paul's **conscience** had always been clean. It's possible this was the case even when he was persecuting Christians (because in those days he believed that's what God wanted).

- **Acts 23:1:** "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Paul told the governor he always tried to have a clean **conscience** in the sight of both God and other people.

- **Acts 24:16:** "And herein do I exercise myself, to have

always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men."

The **conscience** of the Gentiles testifies to the law of God (because it convicts them when they break His law).

- **Romans 2:15:** "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

Our **conscience** can testify to the truthfulness of our actions (through the Holy Spirit).

- **Romans 9:1:** "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,"

We must submit to the government for the sake of our **conscience**.

- **Romans 13:5:** "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

We need knowledge in order to train our **conscience**. If we lack knowledge then our conscience won't guide us correctly.

- **1 Corinthians 8:4-7:** "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him;

and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."

Our **conscience** can be wrong. It can tell us something is a sin when it isn't.

- **1 Corinthians 8:7**: "Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."

When we do something we must take the weak **conscience** of others into account.

- **1 Corinthians 8:12**: "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ."

If we obtain something that had an evil origin, but we don't know that, God doesn't require us to perform an exhaustive investigation before accepting it. Instead we can accept the item in good **conscience** and move on.

- **1 Corinthians 10:25**: "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:"

Our liberty doesn't depend on what other people believe is right or wrong. The **conscience** of others doesn't restrict our own liberty.

- **1 Corinthians 10:29:** "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"

When it comes to what we eat and drink, we must seek to not offend others. There are certain things we must not do (and the reason is for the sake of their **conscience**.)

- **1 Corinthians 10:32-33:** "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

The path to genuine love, faith, and a good **conscience** is through God's commandments of . Those who reject His commandments and live as they please will never have any of those things.

- **1 Timothy 1:5:** "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"

We must hold on to a good **conscience**.

- **1 Timothy 1:19:** "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:"

Those who have abandoned a good **conscience** have turned their life into a shipwreck.

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which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:"

Deacons must have a pure **conscience**.

- **1 Timothy 3:8-9:** "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

There are some wicked people who don't feel bad about the evil things they're doing. Their **conscience** has been seared.

- **1 Timothy 4:2:** "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

Paul believed it was possible to have a pure **conscience**.

- **2 Timothy 1:3:** "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"

Paul served God with a pure **conscience**.

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The **conscience** of unbelievers is defiled. They don't have the ability to discern between good and evil, because they're corrupt and look at the world from a corrupted vantage point.

- **Titus 1:15:** "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

Christ is the one who purges our **conscience** from dead works (which are incapable of saving us).

- **Hebrews 9:14:** "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Christ sacrificed Himself to purge our **conscience** from our works (which are dead) so we can serve the living God.

- **Hebrews 9:14:** "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

In Jesus our hearts are cleansed from having an evil **conscience**. (In other words, Jesus cleanses our heart of evil.)

- **Hebrews 10:22:** "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

We must seek to have a good **conscience** in all things.

- **Hebrews 13:18:** "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Christians must have a good **conscience**, so that the enemies of the gospel have no true accusations to make against us.

- **1 Peter 3:16:** "Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

Baptism is the answer of a good **conscience** toward God. It's an outward act of obedience that follows salvation, and is therefore a public symbol (a "figure") of salvation.

- **1 Peter 3:21:** "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"