

“Conscience”

I. Introduction.

- A. Is a conscience important, why/why not?
- B. Do you like having a conscience, why/why not?
- C. Are consciences always reliable, why/why not?

II. Scripture.

A. Definitions.

1. **National Institutes of Health**—“*The inner moral sense that guides a person to evaluate the rightness or wrongness of their behavior. It acts as an internal compass, driving individuals toward moral actions and often causing feelings of guilt or remorse when they violate their ethical principles.*”
2. **Merriam-Webster**—“*1a: the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good. b: a faculty, power, or principle (as in an individual or group) that steers toward what is right and away from what is wrong. c: psychology: the part of the superego that transmits commands and admonitions to the ego. 2: conformity to what one considers to be correct, right, or morally good: conscientiousness. 3: sensitive regard for fairness or justice: scruple.*”
3. **Greek**—“*Suneidesis (συνειδησεως; Soon-i-day-sis): co-perception, moral consciousness, conscience;” 31 times in the KJV, found in 29 verses, all in the NT).*”

B. “Good” (+).

1. **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.*”
2. **1Ti. 1:5**—“*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*”
3. **1Ti. 1:19**—“*Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*”
4. **Heb. 13:18**—“*Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.*”

5. **1Pe. 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."
 6. **1Pe. 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:"
- C. "**Pure**" or "**Purged**" (+).
1. **1Ti. 3:9**—"Holding the mystery of the faith in a **pure conscience**."
 2. **2Ti. 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;"
 3. **Heb. 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?"
 4. **Heb. 10:2**—"For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once **purged** should have had no more **conscience** of sins."
- D. "**Void of offence**" (+).
1. **Acts 24:16**—"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a **conscience void of offence** toward God, and toward men."
- E. "**Simplicity**" and "**Sincerity**" (+).
1. **2Co. 1:12**—"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our **conscience**, that in **simplicity** and godly **sincerity**, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."
- F. "**Weak**" and "**Defiled**" (-).
1. **1Co. 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**."
 2. **1Co. 8:10**—"For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the **conscience** of him which is **weak** be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;"
 3. **1Co. 8:12**—"But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their **weak conscience**, ye sin against Christ."

4. **Tit. 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."*
- G. "Seared" (-).
1. **1Ti. 4:2**—*"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"*
- H. "Evil" (-).
1. **Heb. 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."*
- I. "Convicted by" "Bearing witness by," or living by yours or another's conscience (+).
1. **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."*
 2. **Rom. 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;)"*
 3. **Rom. 9:1**—*"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,"*
 4. **Rom. 13:5**—*"Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."*
 5. **1Co. 10:25**—*"Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:"*
 6. **1Co. 10:27**—*"If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake."*
 7. **1Co. 10:28**—*"But if any man say unto you, 'This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:"*
 8. **1Co. 10:29**—*"Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"*
 9. **2Co. 4:2**—*"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*

10. **Heb. 9:9**—"Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the **conscience**;"
11. **1Pe. 2:19**—"For this is thankworthy, if a man for **conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.**"

III. Application.

- A. How can a conscience point someone to God and His absolute morals?
- B. So, is it important to guard your conscience?
- C. How can you keep or restore a pure and Godly conscience?
- D. How can one live without fear, guilt, anger, or shame?
- E. How is the best way to help someone else's conscience?