

THE CONSCIENCE

Conscience: (Gk - sundidesis) literally a co-knowledge. That faculty by which we apprehend the correctness of something. The part of us that commends us or pricks us when we either do that which we have been taught is right or wrong.

- I. Is the Conscience a safe guide?
 - A. Some ways seem right but end in death. Prov 16:25
 - B. Paul thought he was right but was not. Gal 1:13-15

- II. The Conscience is not a true guide in secular matters.
 - A. In travel we may assume to be on right road but really be lost.
 - B. In health we may think we are healthy but may be sick.
 - C. In business we may think our investments are good when they aren't.
 - D. Things are not always as they seem

- III. The Conscience is not a true guide in religious matters.
 - A. While it says we are right we may not be.
 - B. Conscience must be schooled according to truth.
 - C. Only God's word is truth. Jn 17:17

- IV. The Conscience is a court.
 - A. Excuses or accuses us. Rom 2:12-16
 - B. Jesus let conscience of Jews condemn themselves. Jn 8:7-9
 - C. The court must follow the law book - the bible.
 - D. The court must listen to the Judge - Jesus.
 - E. The jury must be informed of the facts and the law.
 - F. Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to the conscience.
 - G. We must seek to learn the law book.

- V. Self approval is not always correct.
 - A. II Cor 10:18, Acts 26:9-10
 - B. Jn 16:2-3

- VI. We should not violate our own conscience.
 - A. The conscience is important in serving God.
 - B. We must not defile our own conscience. Rom 14:22
 - C. A clear conscience is a must before God. Acts 23:1, 24:16, Rom 13:5
 - D. A violated conscience hinders worship in "spirit." Jn 4:24

- VII. We must not violate others conscience.
 - A. Somethings may be our liberty but we must refrain. I Cor 8:7-13
 - B. In matters of liberty our brother's conscience must be esteemed.
 - C. This may mean we fore go our own desires sometimes.
 - D. We are our brothers keeper and servant. I Cor 10:24-29
 - E. We cannot compromise in matters of law but in liberties we must.

- VIII. Types of consciences.
 - A. Clear. ex. Paul lived in a clear conscience.
 - B. Pricked. Acts 2
 - C. Defiled. I Cor 8, Tit 1:15
 - D. Seared. I Tim 4:2
 - E. Without one. Gen 6:5. No longer thought about God.

- IX. Obtaining a clear conscience. Heb 9:14, 10:19-22, I Pet 3:21