

# CONSCIENCE

12 November 2021

The closer we get to God, the more our conscience will reveal to us our sins. The apostle Paul counted himself to be the chief of sinners by the time he got near the end of his life and ministry (1 Tim 1:15). We live in a society today that is void of conscience. Greater and greater sins are committed each day because nobody views their actions to be sinful anymore. If your conscience is working properly, you will be able to see the great difference between sinful man and a Holy God.

## SEVEN CONDITIONS OF A PERSON'S CONSCIENCE

### 1. THE EVIL CONSCIENCE (Hebrews 10:22).

- a. When a person becomes accustomed to a life of sin, his conscience becomes evil.
- b. This is a person who doesn't view any of his sins to be wrong even when you show them what God says about it in the bible.
- c. This is a conscience that approves of any sin a person wants to practice.

### 2. THE DEFILED CONSCIENCE (Titus 1:15).

- a. Unbelief will result in a defiled conscience. Nothing is pure about the person with a defiled conscience.
  - i. People with a defiled conscience become more and more defiled as the years go by and they seek more sinful practices to give themselves a thrill.
  - ii. TV programs are becoming more gruesome, shocking, and depraved in order to satisfy the people whose conscience is defiled.

### 3. THE SEARED CONSCIENCE (1 Timothy 4:2).

- a. This is a conscience that doesn't feel anything at all. The most wicked sins have no effect on the person with a seared conscience.
  - i. They didn't listen to their God-given conscience when they had the opportunity. God nudged them in their conscience one time, and they ignored Him (Isa 56:6-7). When they didn't forsake their evil ways, their conscience deadened.

### 4. THE CONVICTED CONSCIENCE (John 8:9).

- a. When the Holy Spirit charged you with sin, you understood that you were guilty before God. At that point you have **two choices**:
  - i. Walk away from God so you don't feel so guilty.
  - ii. **OR (!)** get your life right before God and start enjoying your life with the Lord.

### 5. THE WEAK CONSCIENCE (1 Corinthians 8:10-13).

- a. When a person with a weak conscience sees a church member ignoring God's teaching, it **removes the conviction** that the Holy Spirit sent to that weak person when the bible was preached.
  - i. If you want to cancel out everything your child learns in church, just ignore the preaching and live in the opposite manner of everything you hear preached.

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### 6. THE PURGED (CLEANSED) CONSCIENCE (Hebrews 9:14).

- a. When you get saved and born-again, the blood of Jesus Christ purges your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
  - i. Now you feel terrible when you sin.

1. You may sin afterwards, but you will feel guilty and defiled by that sin.
2. That new sense of guilt will give you assurance that something has changed on the inside.

## **7. THE PERFECT CONSCIENCE (Hebrews 9:9, 10:2).**

- a. This is the conscience that is working perfectly as God intends it to work.
    - i. Sacrifices, ordinances, good deeds, etc. cannot perfect your conscience.
    - ii. A sinner's conscience can only be perfected by trusting in the finished blood atonement of Jesus Christ.
    - iii. You may have participated in many religious exercises and ceremonies, but none of them will make your conscience work right. You MUST trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.
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## **FIVE OUTWORKINGS OF A CLEANSED AND PERFECTED CONSCIENCE:**

### **1. A PERFECT CONSCIENCE WILL OBEY GOD (1 PETER 2:19).**

- a. If you have a perfect conscience toward God, you will allow men to mistreat you. You won't retaliate or complain or respond improperly. You will be concerned about responding properly so you can glorify your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
  - i. Jesus was betrayed by Judas. He called Judas, "friend" (Luke 22:48).
  - ii. Jesus was denied by Peter (Jn 18:25-27). He labored to restore Peter (Jn 21:15-17).
  - iii. Nine lepers didn't thank Jesus when He healed them (Lk 17:12-19). Jesus continued to heal others.
  - iv. The Jews rejoiced when Jesus entered Jerusalem (John 12:13). The same Jews cried for Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:13). Jesus went to the cross for them.

### **2. A PERFECT CONSCIENCE WILL BE VOID OF OFFENSE TOWARD GOD AND MEN (ACTS 24:16).**

- a. This is accomplished by exercise, by caring, and by constant work, striving not to be offensive in any way to men or to God.
- b. This is done by not ignoring the conscience when God shows you something that is wrong in your life. Deal with those sins quickly and put them away. Agree with God that it's wrong.

### **3. LIVING A GODLY LIFE WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD CONSCIENCE (ACTS 23:1).**

- a. This doesn't mean you never do anything wrong. It means you deal with sins immediately whenever God points them out to you.
- b. Be concerned about your own sins and let God deal with your brethren about theirs. Everyone grows spiritually at a different rate. God has it under control.

### **4. A PERFECT CONSCIENCE WILL BE PURE BY FIDELITY (2 TIMOTHY 1:3).**

- a. Commitment, faithfulness, loyalty, devotion to God and His ways alone, according to the holy bible.
  - i. Not mixed with worldly philosophy, traditions, and teachings of men (Col 2:8).

### **5. A CONSECRATED TESTIMONY LEADS TO A PERFECT CONSCIENCE (2 CORINTHIANS 1:12).**

- a. If you always aim to do right by God in every situation and location, your testimony will give you a conscience that will enable you to witness to your co-workers, neighbors, family members, etc.
  - i. Be consistent in the way you live wherever you are and whatever you're doing.