

A photograph of a forest path. On the left, a large, thick tree trunk with rough bark and some moss is prominent. The path, made of dirt and large, flat rocks, leads from the foreground into the dense forest. The trees are lush green, and sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the ground.

A Good Conscience

Can Your Conscience be Your Guide?

Our Conscience is a Gift From God

1. An alarm system, a moral compass designed to distinguish right from wrong.
2. The Holy Spirit is not the same as the conscience, the Holy Spirit can work within the conscience but the conscience is found in both the sinner and the righteous, the Holy Spirit only lives in the believer.
3. The conscience is a warning mechanism given to us by God and used by God to protect us from physical harm in the immediate or from treasured up wrath through disobedience and punishment later.

The Conscience Exists in Everyone in one of Several Conditions:

1. Active warning and restraining.
2. Works in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. We can desensify our conscience by wrong living and being repeatedly induced by culture.
3. Repeated exposure to the wrong things program us regardless of how we try to live for God. We should eliminate these "wrong things" from our daily lives so we will not be influenced by them.

The Purpose of a Conscience

1. To protect us.
2. The Ten Commandments are the basic foundation of our value system. The Holy Spirit helps us to interpret our conscience.
3. A good conscience is a quiet one (Godly) because we are walking in God's ways. A sharp one that pokes us hard when necessary and a loud one that notifies us immediately.

I Can Trust my Conscience When

1. When Christ becomes our savior.
2. When word of God becomes our basis of conduct.
3. When we have a strong desire to please God.
4. Prayerfully do what God wants me to do.
5. When considering a sin, does my conscience sound an alarm?
6. Do I feel guilty when I sin?
7. Do I feel compelled to repent of my disobedience.

Seven Biblical Words to Describe the Conditions of the Conscience:

1. A GOOD CONSCIENCE - Paul believed he was doing the work of God when he was persecuting Christians in his conscience even though he was doing wrong.

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

2. A BLAMELESS CONSCIENCE - Do we try and live a life that is not contrary to God. Are we hypocritical?

Acts 24:16 KJV - [16] And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

3. A CLEAR CONSCIENCE - Do we constantly find ourselves defending our actions to our conscience?

2 Timothy 1:3 KJV - [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;

4. A WEAK CONSCIENCE - Are we intimidated by others enough to do something we know to be wrong just so we fit in.

1 Corinthians 8:7-12 KJV - [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. [8] But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. [9] But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. [10] For if any man see thee which hath 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; [11] And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? [12] But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

5. A DEFILED CONSCIENCE - Do we allow a Godless behavior to live in our life until we begin to actually defend the action? Do we attempt to muffle our conscience to the point where we stop hearing it.

Titus 1:15 KJV - [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.

6. AN EVIL CONSCIENCE - The consequence of repeatedly shutting down our conscience until we find it easy to sin. We become an enemy of God.

Hebrews 10:22 KJV - [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.

7. A SEARED CONSCIENCE - We have sinned so often that we don't even feel our conscience anymore. God has given us over to our own fleshly desires, in a sense he has given up on us.

1 Timothy 4:2 KJV - [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;