

The Conscience

Conscience: Gk.4893- *co* [Webster: with, together, joint]-*perception*, that is, moral *consciousness* [awareness].

Webster: an awareness of right and wrong, with a compulsion to do right.

What conscience is – alarm system. (*In a computer it is the operating system.*) How it operates – taught/perverted. (*In a computer it is in the programming.*) We are all “computers” with operating systems in need to be “programmed”.

 Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that **had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression**, who is the figure of Him that was to come. (*Adam sinned in a “sinless” environment. We have been “programmed” through the media, our parents and etc. because that’s our environment.*)

1Co 15:21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam (*we are all naturally, at birth, related in Adam*) all die (*not that we are responsible for, but as a consequence of, Adam’s sin*), even so in Christ (*we are not automatically born “in Christ”*) shall **all** (*Gk.3956- as many as*) be made alive.

Gal 3:27 For **as many** (*Gk.3745- as[much] as: -all*) of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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?

- When God created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil He gave man choice and thus the opportunity for man to choose between right and wrong. With his conscience, which was created with the compulsion to do good, he chose to do evil. (*Nowhere in the Old Testament is the word conscience used except in the more modern versions such as “God’s Word” and the “Contemporary English Version”. In those versions “conscience” equates to the KJV as having to do with the “integrity of the heart” and thus the mind.*) It was in this tree where a conscience, the choice between good and evil, was first tested in the garden. Adam and Eve were not aware of their nakedness before developing theirs in which they chose to disobey the only commandment given by God at that time.

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods (*God*), knowing good and evil.

- We are all born with a conscience (*choice*) but **without** the understanding of the difference between good and evil thus innocent with a **nature to do good**. That is **God's** gift to everyone because **He** doesn't desire that anyone be lost (*2 Pet 3:9*). Even **Hitler** was born innocent. We learn through our individual environments and/or are taught, such things as prejudice, political views and/or perception and from which we gain a personal understanding or bias of right and wrong, which is why we need **God**.

Jer 17:9 The heart (*Heb.3820- feelings, the will and even the intellect*) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? **10** I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins (*Heb.3629- figuratively the mind*), even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only **evil continually**.

Pro 22:6 **Train up** (*Heb.2596- to narrow: -dedicate*) (*Mat 7:14 ...strait is the gate and narrow is the way...*) a child (*narrow his choices! Parents think they are doing their children a favor by giving them multiple choices.*) in the way (*Heb.1870- a road [as trodden]; figuratively a course of life or mode of action, often adverbially: - conversation, custom, manner*) he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Mat 18:2 And Jesus called a little child to Him and set him in their midst, **3** and said, **Truly I say to you, Unless you are converted and become as little children (innocent), you shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven. (MKJV)**

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food (*lust of the flesh...*), and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes (*...of the eyes...*), and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise (*...and the pride of life*), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband **with her**; and he did eat. (*For all that is in the world...is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 Jn 2:26*) (*Adam had no excuse. He knew that this was the forbidden tree.*)

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. **8** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

- Imagine being in the middle of a mall on a Saturday evening and all of a sudden and without warning you are naked. Wouldn't you want to hide your nakedness? That's just about how **Adam** and **Eve** would have felt. When they once were innocent as little children it didn't matter because, as a little child doesn't understand where being naked in public is wrong, they also were not mindful of their exposure. But violation of the moral conscience brings about shame and shame often brings about blame. As adults we cannot shift the responsibility for our actions on either our upbringings or other environmental influences.

Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? **10** And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. **11** And He said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **12** And the man said, The woman whom Thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **13** And the LORD

God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Jas 5:16 Confess (*Gk.1843- to acknowledge or [by implication of assent] agree fully*) your faults (*Gk.3900- a side slip [lapse or deviation], that is, [unintentional] error or [willful] transgression*) one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God ... *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Heb 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

- Since God already knew what Adam and Eve had done, it was His desire for them to “fess up” in order for them to feel the guilt associated with their sin of disobedience. And feeling guilty should have brought about repentance.

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Good or Bad Conscience

- Having a good conscience can often be a bad thing just as having a bad one can be good. Conviction never comes in what you **think** you are doing right. It comes when you realize that what you are doing is wrong. (*e/p meeting 4/27/12*)

Act 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all **good conscience** (*Gk.4893*) before God until this day.

Heb 9:9 (*the Mosaic law*)...could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Gal 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation (*Gk391- behavior*) in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly **zealous of the traditions** (*Pro 22:6 Train up...*) of my fathers.

Mat 15:3 But He answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**

- Not that all traditions are bad either.

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that **walketh disorderly**, and **not** after the **tradition** (*Gk.3862- transmission, that is, a precept*) which he received of us.

Php 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 **Concerning zeal, persecuting the church**; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

- When a man feels he's blameless when doing what he “understands” to be right and doing it makes him “the man” why not keep on doing it, but with **gusto**?

Act 26:9 I verily **thought with myself**, that I **ought to do many things contrary** to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **10** Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I **gave my voice against them**. (*Steven- Acts 7*) **11** And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being **exceedingly mad against them**, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. **12** Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, **13** At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. **14** And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?** *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks* (*Gk.2759- a point, or goad*).

- **Saul was having a hard time going against his upbringing and education at the feet of Gamaliel, the noted doctor of the Mosaic law of his day.**

Act 22:3 I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel**, *and* taught **according to the perfect manner of the law** of the fathers, and was **zealous toward God**, as ye all are this day. **4** And I **persecuted this way** unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

- **But even Gamaliel's advice to the council was to** "Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this council or this work be of men, it will come to naught: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God". (*Act 5:38-39*)

1Ti 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, Who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; (*Isn't it interesting how you can take a person with zeal, even a negative zeal, and how God can use them in the kingdom work?*) **13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it ignorantly* (*Gk.50- not to know; by implication to ignore*) in unbelief.

- **Paul, as Saul, chose not to do his research in the matter because he relied on his training from little up thinking he was good to go, conscience wise. He ignored the passages that spoke of Jesus as the Christ and how "the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms"** (*Lk 24:44*) were written with regard to His coming, and His death, burial and resurrection. So likewise we are not to rely on our own upbringing as the basis of truth but are to look to the **Bible** for all things that pertain to "truth which is after godliness" (*Titus 1:1*) as did the **Bereans**.

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness of mind**, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so**.

Rom 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. **14** For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, **do** (*shows choice*) **by nature** (*that part of the conscience that has the compulsion to do good*) the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: **15** Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts (*Gk.2588- the thoughts or feelings [mind]*), their conscience (*that co-perception or moral consciousness*) also **bearing witness** (*Gk.4828- to testify jointly, that is, corroborate by [concurrent] evidence*), and

their thoughts the mean while **accusing** (*Gk.2723- to charge with some offense*) or **else excusing** (*Gk.626- make defense*) one another;)

- Their actions agreed with their thoughts and words.

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye **do in word or deed**, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

1Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but **in deed** and **in truth**.

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Pure Conscience

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid (*Heb.6845- hoard or reserve: -esteem*) in mine heart (*Heb.3820- intellect*), that I might not sin against Thee.

- Which will help us to not sin against God? Esteeming His word by reserving it in our intellect or constantly bombarding our minds with the smut of the worldly media?

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing (*Gk.4108- misleading*) spirits (*Gk.4151- vital principal*), and doctrines of devils; 2 **Speaking lies** (*Gk.5573- promulgating [Webster: publish/proclaim] erroneous Christian doctrine*) in hypocrisy; having their conscience **seared with a hot iron** (*Gk.2743- to brand [“cauterize”], that is, [by implication] to render un-sensitive*);

- To have an unfeeling conscience is to not have one at all. And without a conscience anything and everything goes. A seared conscience is like “taking the battery out of a smoke detector” (Doug Hamilton).

Tit 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled (*Gk.3392- to sully or taint, that is, contaminate [ceremonially or morally]*) and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind (*Gk.3563- intellect*) and conscience (*Gk.4893- co-perception, that is, moral consciousness*) is defiled.

Heb 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and **sprinkled** (*Gk.4472- to sprinkle [ceremonially or figuratively]*) both the book, and **all the people**, 20 Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

Heb 10:22 Let us **draw near** (*Gk.4334- worship*) with a true heart (*Gk.2588- the thoughts or feelings [mind]*) in **full assurance** (*Gk.4136- entire confidence*) of faith (*Gk.4102- moral conviction [of religious truth]*), having our hearts sprinkled (*Gk.4472*) (*here, with the blood of the spotless Lamb of God*) from (*Gk.575- “off”, that is, away [from something near]*) an evil conscience (*which is always as near as Satan is and we know he is always near*), and our bodies washed (*Gk.3068- to bathe [the whole person]*) with pure water.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Tit 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,

by the washing (*Gk.3067 from 3068- a bath, that is, baptism*) of regeneration (*Gk.3824- [spiritual] rebirth*), and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man (shows choice) be born (Gk.1080- figuratively, to regenerate) of water (baptism) and of the Spirit (s teaching on the subject), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

1Pe 3:20 Which sometime (*Gk.4218- at some time: -at length*) were disobedient (*Gen 6:3 ...an hundred and twenty years.*), when once the longsuffering (*Gk.3115- patience*) of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved (*Gk.1295- to save thoroughly, rescue: -escape [safe]*) by (*Gk.1223- through*) water (*Gk.5204- water [as if rainy]*). **21 The like figure (Gk.499- corresponding [“antitype”], that is, a representative, counterpart) whereunto even baptism (Gk.908 from 907- baptism/ to make whelmed [that is, fully wet]) doth also now (Gk.3568- present or immediate) save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer (Gk.1906- an inquiry [Webster: investigation; research]) of a good conscience toward God,) (which can only be obtained) by (Gk.1223- denoting the channel of an act; through) the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

1Co 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **14** And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain (*Gk.3152- profitless*), and your faith *is* also vain. **15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: Whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **16** For if the dead rise (*Gk.1453- to awaken*) not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins (*and have not obtained a good conscience from God*). **18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ (*died with the understanding that having been baptized into Christ saved them*) are perished (*Gk.622- to destroy fully*) (*Thus giving credence to the “doctrine of annihilation”*). **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. **20 But now** is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

- **But now (v. 20)** that it's understood in **truth** that **Christ really did** raise up and is seated at the right hand of **God in Heaven**, we can rest assured that we now can have hope at the resurrection when we stand before **Him** through having a good conscience to go with **Him** when **He** comes to claim **His** own. Does your conscience conform to what the **Bible** teaches on this fact?

Hear: **Romans 10:17** ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: **Heb 11:6** ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: **Lk 13:3** ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: **Mat 10:32** "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: **Acts 22:16** "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Remain faithful: **Rom 6:4** ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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