

Conscience

Everyone has a conscience as a means of conviction John 8:9 *Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.* (the woman at the well, cast the first stone)

The conscience can be cleansed. Hebrews 9:14 *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* Acts 24:16 *"This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.*

Five characteristics of a healthy conscience. (read the verses before and after for context)

1. A **good** conscience. 1 Timothy 1:15 *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,* Kind and gracious 1 Peter 3:16 *having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.* NKJV

2. A **pure** conscience. Effects motives, thinking and behavior. 1 Timothy 3:9 *holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.* NKJV

3. A **blameless** (clear) conscience. Despite others charges and opinions 2 Timothy 1:3 *I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience, the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,* NASB clear, KJV pure

4. A **perfect** conscience. Hebrews 9:9 *It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-. A complete, finished condition as in 2 Timothy 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* NKJV

5. A **strong** conscience. One having a vital knowledge of God, discerning, tolerance, and forbearance through His Word. Able to enjoy freedoms in Christ; in contrast to a weak conscience. Romans 15:1 *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.* NKJV

There are also five negative consciences that Paul lists in his letters. Obviously, one does not want or should not want in a Christian's life. The first two do not necessary represent a sin problem, the latter three do.

1. A weak conscience
2. A wounded conscience
3. A seared conscience
4. An evil conscience
5. A dead conscience

GOOD CONSCIENCE QUALITIES

1. Effective – keeps us on course.
2. Victorious – (1 Timothy 1:18,19)
3. Honest – (Hebrews 13:18)
4. Witness – (1 Peter 3:14-17)
5. Kind and gracious
6. Agreeable and pleasant

PURE CONSCIENCE QUALITIES

1. Integrity
2. Chaste
3. Innocent
4. Morally pure and upright
5. Right motives
6. Sincere
7. Personal purity

BLAMELESS CONSCIENCE QUALITIES

1. No offense given
2. Not causing one to stumble
3. Being all things to all men
4. Tolerant

PERFECT CONSCIENCE QUALITIES

1. Law free
2. Grace filled
3. God's Word as final authority
4. Free from emotional guilt
5. Living and walking in the Spirit

STRONG CONSCIENCE QUALITIES

1. Spiritual knowledge
2. Discernment
3. Freedom
4. Tolerance
5. Forbearance
6. Sensitive

RADIO REACT Handout June 16

This is a simple acronym to help us minister to people (and perhaps ourselves in discovery)

R – RECOGNITION: Recognition comes mainly through observation. We need to know what qualities are dominant in the person's life and what is recognized as right or wrong within the conscience currently. Eph. 4:22-24 If we don't know what is being put off or what to put on, we are in trouble. Knowing scripture in the heart will make this portion a lot easier.

E- EVALUATION: Evaluation is sorting through the facts of the situation we gain through observation. This allows us to establish the goal we wish to reach in dealing with the individual. Do we need Confrontation, Conflict Resolution, define and deal with Manipulation, Flesh of Family life, Critical Spirit, Lonliness, Trials, etc.

A-AFFIRMATION: Affirmation is establishing rapport and gaining the person's confidence. Scripture must be a large part of this or we can get too subjective in the person finding their strength from a horizontal relationship rather than from God Almighty. We can then direct the agenda; gained through the evaluation, to the person we are ministering to. The goal is to transform their heart (the inner person) and see them change according to the mind of God.

C-CONSECRATION: Consecration is the process of building into the individual the truths of God that addresses the issues in the person's life. A good example is the principle of identification found in Romans 6-8. To see those we minister to in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ. We should help to assist in forming a Biblical World View, Priorities in daily living, Importance of Holiness, Glorifying God in all we do and teaching how to be in the world but NOT of the world.

T-Transformation: Transformation is the ultimate goal of Romans 12:1/2 and Colossians 1:27. Those involved in spiritual guidance do not exist to fix people but to point to the Holy Spirit in His eternal business of transforming people. He doesn't fix people, but transforms them as they yield and surrender. Flesh cannot fix flesh nor improve it. It was put to death at the Cross and now understanding on how to live out what has already been put in is a priority.

We must evaluate what we have observed. An example: We can look for intellectualism at the expense of faith. A false legalism at the expense of grace. A license instead of liberty. Disregarding or discarding accepted doctrine for specious and foreign doctrine.