

The Conscience

For such an important topic, the word "conscience" is actually not used very often in the Bible. In this study packet we will look at the importance of the conscience. Note: We will only focus on passages that specifically mention the word *conscience*. Thus, there may be parallel passages that bear on the discussion, but are not mentioned in this packet. I encourage you to study any parallel passage you find to your heart's content.

Defining the word:

- I. What is the definition for the English word "Conscience"? _____

- II. In 1 Corinthians 8:7, what is the Strong's number and definition for the word translated as "Conscience?" _____

- III. According to your Strong's are there any other words listed that are translated as "Conscience?" If so, what are they? _____

Cleansing a Conscience

While we have a big part in maintaining a clean conscience (which we will study about in later sections), it is important to find out how we get a clean conscience in the first place.

- I. Read through Hebrews 9 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Which two verses contain the word "Conscience?" _____ & _____
 - b. What cannot make the worshipers perfect in conscience? _____

 - c. According to the context of this verse; why is this? _____

 - d. What can cleanse our conscience from dead works? _____

 - e. According to the context of this verse; why is this? _____

- II. Read through Hebrews 10:1-25 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Which verse in this section specifically mentions "conscience?" _____

- b. In verse 2, what is the Strong's number and definition for the Greek word rendered "Consciousness?" _____

 - c. What could not make perfect those who draw near? _____
 - d. According to the surrounding verses, why is this? _____

 - e. In verses 11-14, What can perfect those who are sanctified? _____
 - f. In verse 22, what is specifically mentioned as "cleaning an evil conscience?" _____
 - g. Because of this cleansing, what are some of the listed responsibilities that Christians have? _____

- III. Take a look at 1 Peter 3:21-22 and answer these questions:
- a. Read the preceding context to determine what the phrase "Corresponding to that" is referring to. _____

 - b. What "now saves you?" _____
 - i. This is NOT what? _____
 - ii. Instead, what is it? _____
 - c. All of this accomplished through what? _____

Keeping a Clean Conscience

Keeping a clean conscience take considerable effort! In this section we will study how it's done.

- I. Study Romans 13:1-10 to find the answers to these questions:
- a. In this section, we are commanded to be in subjection to whom? _____

 - b. Which verse in this section specifically mentions "conscience?" _____
 - c. According to this, what is one element of keeping a clean conscience? _____

 - d. What statement sums up all the other commandments? _____

- II. Spend some time studying 1 Corinthians 8, then answer these questions:

- a. How many times is *conscience* mentioned in this chapter? _____
 - b. How many times are *idols* mentioned in this chapter? _____
 - c. Are idols legitimate, powerful deities? ☐Yes ☐No
 - d. Which verse tells us that there is one true God? _____
 - e. Pertaining to the first occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. Whose conscience is defiled? _____
 - ii. How is their conscience defiled? _____
 - iii. Why is their conscience defiled? _____
 - f. Because of this, we need to take care in our use of what? _____

 - g. Pertaining to the second occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. What is the person's conscience strengthened to do? _____

 - ii. Is this particular strengthening a good thing? ☐Yes ☐No
 - iii. Why is their conscience strengthened in this? _____

 - h. It is possible to ruin a brother through our knowledge. Which verse points this out? _____
 - i. Pertaining to the third occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. What is happening to the conscience under discussion? _____

 - ii. Who is doing this to them? _____
 - iii. In doing this to the them, one also sins against whom? _____
 - j. Paul comes to what conclusion about this topic? _____

- III. Study 1 Corinthians 10:24-33 to answer these questions:
- a. How many times is *conscience* mentioned in this section? _____
 - b. Whose good should we all be seeking? _____

- c. Pertaining to the first occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. What situation is being addressed here? _____
 - ii. What should we not do, for conscience' sake? _____

 - iii. Why is this (according to the next verse)? _____

- d. Pertaining to the second occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. What situation is being addressed here? _____
 - ii. What should we not do, for conscience' sake? _____

- e. Pertaining to the third occurrence of *conscience*:
 - i. What situation is being addressed here? _____
 - ii. What should we not do, for conscience' sake? _____

 - iii. Whose conscience is under discussion here? _____
 - iv. Which verse verifies your answer for the above question? _____
- IV. Study 1 Peter 2:13-20 to answer these questions:
 - a. In which verse is *conscience* mentioned? _____
 - b. In this section which groups of people are commanded to submit themselves, and to whom must they be submissive? _____

 - c. What is being done for the sake of conscience toward God? _____

 - d. What does not find favor with God? _____

- V. According to 1 Peter 3:15-16, why should we keep a good conscience?

Helping Others Keep a Clean Conscience

While we have studied some of these verses already, it is importance for us to focus on the concept of not harming another's conscience.

- I. In 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Whose conscience is under discussion? _____
 - a. What did Paul renounce? _____
 - b. What was Paul doing in reference to said conscience? _____
- II. According to 1 Corinthians chapter 8, what action might harm another's conscience? _____
 - a. Because of this, who must change their actions to avoid harming another's conscience? _____
- III. According to 1 Corinthians chapter 10, what action might harm another's conscience? _____
 - a. What is the end goal of avoiding offence? _____
- IV. In Hebrews 13:17-18, to whom must we submit? _____
 - a. What were the readers to do on behalf of the leaders, that they keep a good conscience? _____
 - b. Should we do this for church leaders today? ☐Yes ☐No

The Importance of Sound Teaching on a Clean Conscience

We commonly connect our actions with having a clean conscience, but doctrine also has a large impact on our conscience.

- I. According to 1 Timothy 1:3-7, to what were the false teachers paying attention? _____
 - a. Paul says "the goal of our instruction is love." From where did that love come?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - b. What happened when men turned away from these things? _____
- II. In 1 Timothy 1:18-20, what happened when people failed to fight the good fight, did not keep the faith or a good conscience? _____

- III. According to 1 Timothy 3:8-9, who must have a clear conscience? _____
- a. What must they do with a clear conscience? _____
- IV. Paul mentions in 1 Timothy 4:1-3 that people can "sear their own consciences as with a branding iron." By what means? _____
- _____
- a. Does Paul say that these people are still in the faith, and thus still Christians? ☐Yes ☐No
- V. According to Titus 1:15-16, to whom are all things pure? _____
- a. Whose consciences are defiled? _____
- _____
- b. How did they go to that point? _____
- _____

Personal explanation of innocence

There are a number of times Paul refers to his own conscience, to show that he had conducted himself in a godly manner.

- I. Look up each of the following verses and list what situation Paul was dealing with when mentioning his conscience:
- a. Acts 23:1, _____
- b. Acts 24:16, _____
- c. Romans 9:1, _____
- d. 2 Corinthians 1:12, _____
- e. 2 Corinthians 5:11, _____
- f. 2 Timothy 1:3, _____