



The Conscience and the Spirit



Our **conscience** testifies that we have
conducted ourselves in holiness and sincerity...
(11 Cor. 1:12)

When Gentiles who do not have the law, naturally do those things required by the law,... they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their **consciences** bearing witness, their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them...

(Rom. 2:14-15)

Every person has a conscience... moral component of God's image... it **affirms** or **accuses** us based upon some **standard**.

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. (*Titus 1-5*)

The reality of conscience **does not depend**
on whether it is acknowledged or appreciated.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives within you?

(1 Cor. 3:16)

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

(1 Cor. 6:19)

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body... and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. *(1 Cor. 12:13)*

...no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. *(1 Cor. 12:3)*

Now it is God who makes us stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership upon us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. *(11 Cor. 1:22)*

This PERSON of GOD enters and dwells
within the being and body of every single person
who acknowledges Christ as the necessary
Savior from sin.

- Through Christ... we receive the Spirit.
(Jn. 14:1 5-17)
- Through surrender... we are filled with the Spirit.
(Eph. 5:18)

Everyone has a conscience but not everyone has the Spirit. The conscience is **innate** while the Spirit is **given**.

For the Christian, both sources will **influence**
us to follow the law of love and the doctrines
of the **Scriptures**.

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart, good CONSCIENCE, and sincere faith. *(1 Tim. 1:5)*

Deacons... must take hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear CONSCIENCE.

(1 Tim. 3:9)







Mind – **windowless room** (*morally neutral, dark*)

Conscience = **skylight** (*some illumination,
ambient light*)

Holy Spirit = **sunshine** (*real, revealing light;
truth*)

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit inspired it to be written and illuminates or interprets it to our hearts. This is why it is called God's Word. When we open our ears to God's Word, we are **aligning** the sunlight (truth) over the skylight (conscience).

- The guilty conscience is **cleansed** by the blood of Christ.
- The ignorant conscience is **enlightened** by the Word of God.

ANYONE CAN IGNORE THEIR CONSCIENCE. WHAT HAPPENS?

- Temptation **defies** the conscience *Rom. 1:18*
- Sin **deceives** the conscience *Rom. 1:23*
- Habitual sin **deadens** the conscience *Rom. 1:32*

Need to have a guilty conscience set free? Cleansed?

- Confess and forsake sin to God. (*1 Jn. 1:9*)
- Confess sin to victim and make restitution (if necessary). (*Mt. 5:23-24, Lk. 19:8, Jn. 5:16*)

Draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith having your heart sprinkled to cleanse from a guilty conscience and your body washed with pure water (symbol of baptism). (*Heb. 10:22*)

Timothy, my son,... fight the good fight, hold onto faith, and hold onto a good conscience...
(1 Tim. 1:19)

I have hope in God, and I always strive to keep my conscience clear before God and man.
(Paul, Acts 24:10)

Your conscience is a very vital aspect of God's image. Guard it! Do not ignore it! A clear conscience gives great spiritual **confidence** to our living and **authority** to our witness.