

A Matter Of Conscience

I. False Views Of Conscience

“If follow conscience, saved”

- Contrast Ac.2:37

“Let conscience be your guide”

- Contrast Saul / Paul
 - Saul: Ac.26:9-11

Good conscience + error = sinner

- Paul: 1 Co.4:4

Ignorance is not innocence

I. False Views Of Conscience

II. Finding The Conscience

Conscience [Mind = Judge]

Con-science < *conscientia*, know with

¹Consciousness of right or wrong

²Conscience

³Conscientiousness – LSJ. Hb.10:2

OT: not mentioned

Illustrated:

Gn.42:21; 1 Sm.24:5

NT: 30 x

Jn.8:7-9

I. False Views Of Conscience

II. Finding The Conscience

III. Functions Of
Conscience

1. Bear witness, Ro.2:14-15

- Gentiles without OT displayed its works – often outshining Jews.
- Conscience . . .
 1. considers views.
 2. condemns vices.
 3. commends virtues.

“There is no pillow so soft
as a clear conscience.”

1. Bear witness, Ro.2:14-15

2. **Testimony**, 2 Co.1:12

- Dn.5:5-6, handwriting ... led to self-evaluation

“Thus conscience doth make
cowards of us all” – Hamlet

- Gn.3, hid
- Gn.42, caught
- Mk.6, afraid
- Lk.18, devastated

1. Bear witness, Ro.2:14-15

2. Testimony, 2 Co.1:12

3. **Source of love**, 1 Tim.1:5

- Threefold source of love –

1. Pure heart

2. Good conscience (self judges self)

3. Sincere faith

Acts 2:37

Acts 16:29

Acts 24:25

Ezra 10:3...9, trembling

I. False Views Of Conscience

II. Finding The Conscience

III. Functions Of Conscience

**IV. Flawed
Conscience**

A conscience may be . . .

- Past feeling, Ep.4:19
 - No sense of shame. Pr.30:20
 - Jer.6:15
- Given over to lewdness, Ep.4:19
 - No guilt
 - Alcibiades

A conscience may be . . .

- Past feeling, Ep.4:19
- Given over to lewdness, Ep.4:19
- **Rejected, 1 Tim.1:19**
 - 'Of nice conscience took he no keep'
 - Jezebel
 - Athaliah

A conscience may be . . .

- Past feeling, Ep.4:19
- Given over to lewdness, Ep.4:19
- Rejected, 1 Tim.1:19
- Seared, 1 Tim.4:2
 - Cauterize (deaden); desensitize
 - Numb to what is 'right / wrong'
 - Brand

A conscience may be . . .

- Past feeling, Ep.4:19
- Given over to lewdness, Ep.4:19
- Rejected, 1 Tim.1:19
- Seared, 1 Tim.4:2
- **Defiled**, Tit.1:15
 - 1 Tim.4:3 / Jn.18:28

A conscience may be . . .

- Past feeling, Ep.4:19
- Given over to lewdness, Ep.4:19
- Rejected, 1 Tim.1:19
- Seared, 1 Tim.4:2
- Defiled, Tit.1:15
- **Evil**, Hb.10:22

Guilty conscience:
loaded with bad content.

Dog . . .

I. False Views Of Conscience

II. Finding The Conscience

III. Functions Of Conscience

IV. Flawed Conscience

V. Faithful Conscience

Complete, Ac.23:1

Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

- All good: whole; flawless
- Ps.19:12

Complete, Ac.23:1

Clear, Ac.24:16

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

- Blameless. Charges do not stick

“A good conscience is
a continual feast” - Macbeth

Complete, Ac.23:1

Clear, Ac.24:16

Compliant, Ro.13:5

Therefore you must be subject,
not only because of wrath but
also for conscience' sake.

- God is involved

Complete, Ac.23:1

Clear, Ac.24:16

Compliant, Ro.13:5

Consistent, 2 Tim.1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day

- Recalls Ac.20:26-27

Complete, Ac.23:1
Clear, Ac.24:16
Compliant, Ro.13:5
Consistent, 2 Tim.1:3

Cleansed, Hb.9:...13-14

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

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?

Complete, Ac.23:1
Clear, Ac.24:16
Compliant, Ro.13:5
Consistent, 2 Tim.1:3
Cleansed, Hb.9:13-14

Craving, 1 Pt.3:21

There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Appeal to God for a good conscience
 - ESV

Complete, Ac.23:1
Clear, Ac.24:16
Compliant, Ro.13:5
Consistent, 2 Tim.1:3
Cleansed, Hb.9:13-14

Craving, 1 Pt.3:21

Blood
cleanses

Hb.9:14

GOOD
CONSCIENCE

Baptism
cleanses

1 Pt.3:21