

The Joy of a Clean Conscience – Class #1

Adult Equipping – May 2, 2021

The Joy of a Clean Conscience (Overview)

1. What is the conscience and why is it important?
2. How does the gospel allow me to live with a clean conscience before God?
3. How do I tune or calibrate my conscience?
4. How does Scripture help me to navigate differences of opinion in regard to matters of conscience?

What is the conscience?

General

Exercise: seeing conscience in its NT environment:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Why is it important to understand the conscience?

New Testament Passages on the Conscience

Acts 23:1 - And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day."

Acts 24:16 - So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

Rom. 2:14-16 (15) - For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Rom. 9:1 - I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit

Rom. 13:5 - Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

1 Cor. 8:4-13 (7, 10, 12)

1 Cor. 10:23-30 (25, 27, 28-29)

2 Cor. 1:12 - For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

2 Cor. 4:2 - But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Cor. 5:11 - Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

1 Tim. 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Tim. 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Tim. 3:8-9 - (Deacons) must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

1 Tim. 4:1-5 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose *consciences* are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

2 Tim. 1:3 - I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Titus 1:15 - To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

Heb. 9:6-14

Heb. 10:21-22 - ...since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb. 13:18 - Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

1 Ptr. 3:15–16, 21 - but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame... Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...