



I Peter

Maintaining a Good Conscience **1 Peter 3:16-17** **Study Guide**

1. We are slowing down our pace of study in this part of 1 Peter. Special attention is being given to the difficult circumstances facing the church in Asia Minor (1:1). The church was experiencing suffering because of its faith in Jesus Christ. Believers must not fear or be troubled (14b). They must sanctify Christ as Lord in their hearts (15a). They must be ready to answer their opponents (15b). Next Peter tells them that they should hold a good conscience (16). What do the following Scriptures teach us about the conscience?

a. Romans 2:14-15

b. John 8:9; Romans 2:15; Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15; Hebrews 10:22

c. Hebrews 9:9-14

d. Hebrews 5:11-14; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:14; James 1:5; Acts 24:16

e. 1 Corinthians 8:7; 10:25-29

2. Based on what you have seen about the conscience in the above verses and any previous knowledge you have regarding the conscience, how can the Christian develop a good conscience? What could violate and harm a good conscience? According to 1 Peter 3:16 what is the purpose of a good conscience? As you answer this question keep in mind some of the possible effects persecution can have upon the Christian (e.g. bitterness, vengeance). What does unrepentant sin do to a good conscience? How would that affect the non-Christians who are doing the persecuting?
3. Peter says that it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong (v. 17). Why is this so (2:12; 3:1-2)? What are the consequences of suffering for having done wrong? Can you think of times in your life where you have hurt your witness to the non-Christian because of a bad attitude, something you said or did?
4. Do you know of any Christians who are undergoing persecution for Christ's sake? Have you experienced an attack by a non-Christian either verbally, socially, or physically because of your faith in Christ? Did you have a good conscience that enabled you to stand firm and suffer joyfully for Christ?