

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

### **I. CONSCIENCE IS THE GOD GIVEN ABILITY TO JUDGE OUR BEHAVIOR BY WHAT WE BELIEVE (Rom. 2:14-15).**

What is the first example in human history of the conscience at work?

### **II. THE CONSCIENCE DRAWS ITS BELIEFS FROM WHAT GOD HAS WRITTEN IN THE HEART AND WHAT IS BELIEVED BY OUR CULTURE (Rom. 2:14-15; Judges 17:6).**

Is the conscience the voice of God and personal guide to moral absolutes?

How can the conscience be a good guide and a bad guide (Jn. 8:9; Acts 23:1; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 10:22)?

### **III. THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NON-CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED BY THE COMPLETED AND ALL-SUFFICIENT ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST (Heb. 9:11-14; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 10:2, 22; 1 Tim. 3:9).**

Do you have a conscience that is free from guilt and able to guide you in the ways that please God?

### **IV. THE CONSCIENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS TO BE ENLIGHTENED BY THE SCRIPTURES AND GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (Heb. 5:11-14; Eph. 5:18; Rom. 8:14; Jas. 1:5; Acts 24:16).**

What is a good conscience?

- A good conscience reveals itself in self-sacrificing love (1 Tim. 1:5).
- A good conscience is necessary to fight the good fight of the faith (1 Tim. 1:19).
- A good conscience makes it possible to have an effective prayer life (1 John 3:21, 22).
- A good conscience makes it possible to face without fear those who are hostile to the Christian faith. It gives the believer confidence in defending the truth of the gospel (1 Pet. 3:16).

### **V. THE FORMATION OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE SHOULD BE THE ASPIRATION OF EVERY BELIEVER.**

- A good conscience becomes an increasing reality as Christ is sanctified as Lord in one's heart (1 Pet. 3:15, 16).
- A good conscience is formed as sin is dealt with ruthlessly and consistently (1 Tim. 1:19; 1 Jn. 1:9; Psa. 19:13; 1 Cor. 11:31).
- A good conscience is formed as the mind is filled with God's law and we desire to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Heb. 5:14; Matt. 22:37-40).

A point for meditation

“A Christian, whose conscience is clean and clear, finds it the best companion in the world.” Ezekiel Hopkins