

# **FIRST PETER**

## **PART 100**

### **“HOW CLEAN IS YOUR CONSCIENCE?”**

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As we grow in the Christian life, we realize more and more how consuming our life in Christ becomes. Every aspect of daily life is affected. The decisions we make, the actions we do, and the thoughts that are continually going through our head are all part of our “Christian life.”

When we consider our assignment here on earth to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ, the way we think and act becomes even more of an issue. The “stakes” are really high. Others are continually watching our every move in life; and one way or another, they are forming opinions about our precious Savior. Since we represent Jesus Christ in all that we say and do, would others desire to know our God because they have seen us in action?

When we make room in our lives for Jesus Christ to be the “Master” of all that we are and do, our lifestyle will have certain guidelines. We will be hungry for the nourishment from Holy Scripture, we will be available to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and we will be filtering all of our thoughts and decisions through a “CLEAN CONSCIENCE.”

# OUR CONSCIENCE

## 1 Peter 3:16

- The word "conscience:"
  - ✓ From two words = Together and to **know**.
  - ✓ It is used **32** times in the New Testament and never in the Old Testament.
  - ✓ Several **words** in the Old Testament express the similar idea (like "heart" in 2 Samuel 24:10).
  - ✓ The term "conscience" can be translated as:
    - to know **with**.
    - co-**knowledge**.
    - to understand or become **aware**.
    - to **be** conscious.
- Biblical definition = That immaterial part of a person that functions like a "**filter**" or "grid" through which all thoughts, motives, words, and actions **pass**. It evaluates and responds by the standards imposed upon it.

### Our Conscience Before Salvation

- We all have one, though **defiled**. (*Romans 2:15*)
- From God's perspective, our conscience before salvation was unclean and evaluating wrong **standards**. (*Hebrews 10:22*)
- The conscience can become "seared" or **branded** and no longer effective.

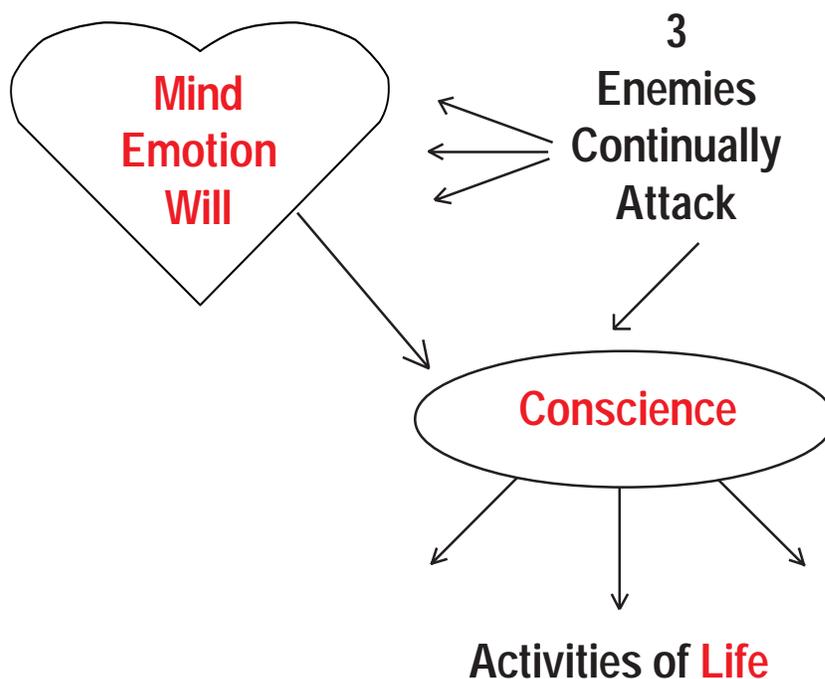
## Our Conscience After Salvation

- The conscience is **cleaned** at salvation. (Hebrews 9:14)
- As believers, we can have a **weak** or strong conscience. (1 Corinthians 8:7-12; 10:25-31)

## The Purpose or “Work” of Our Conscience

- To **convict** a person. (Romans 2:15)
- To bear “**witness**” or testify that truth is being stated. (Romans 9:1)

### A DIAGRAM TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE HEART AND CONSCIENCE



- To change our **perspective**.
- To alter our **actions**.
- To **clutter** our conscience.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- Our conscience must be continually **cleansed** by the Word of God.
- Is your testimony impaired because of a **"dirty"** conscience?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. As you make decisions and do things, would others think you are saved?
2. Would you say your own conscience is...clean, dirty, or really filthy?
3. What has been the major input to your conscience in recent days?