

# FIRST PETER

## PART 101

### “HOW CLEAN IS YOUR CONSCIENCE?”

(Continued)

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Last week we took an in-depth look at the biblical term, “conscience.” Since we all have a conscience, and we are to serve the Living God with a clean conscience, it is imperative that we understand all we can about it.

In defining the conscience last week, we defined it this way...“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.” As believers, we must be careful daily to live life in such a way that our conscience firms up our convictions, not in a way that condemns us.

As simple as it might sound, the Spirit of God uses the Holy Word of God to continually cleanse our conscience. So it only stands to reason that if we are not involved with the Word other sources will “impose” upon our conscience. Remember...all other sources will cause pollution, not cleansing! Here is what the Scriptures say about this very crucial issue.

# 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. (*1 Timothy 4:2*)

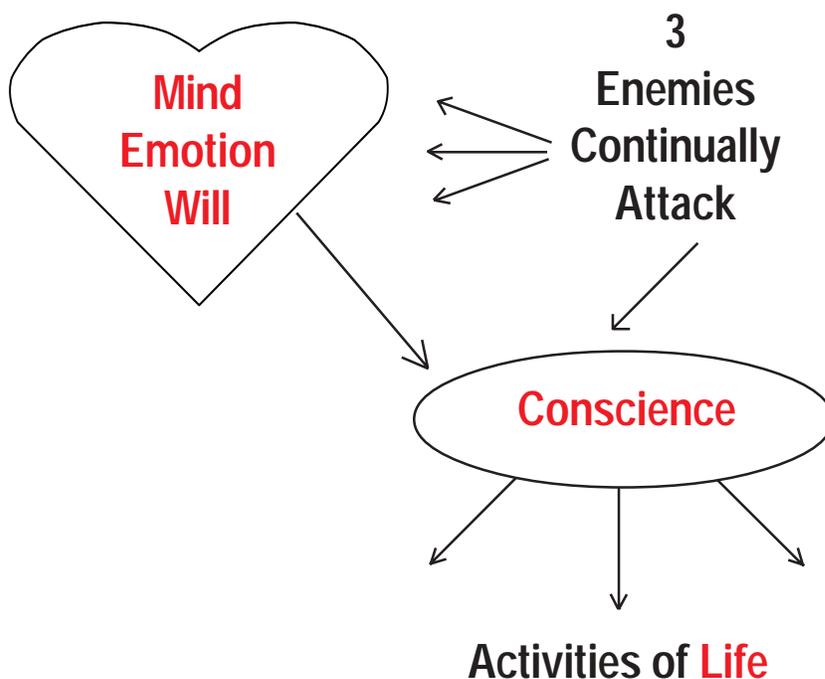
## Our Conscience After Salvation

- 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



## The Goals of the Enemies

- To change our **perspective**.
- To alter our **actions**.
- To **distort** our view of Scripture.
- 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?