

Take Care of Your Conscience

I. Review

II Corinthians 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.

II. How are we to think about our conscience?

A. Our conscience is a God-given gift that we are not to go against

“Conscience is that inner voice that keeps speaking within our beings—and it deserves something better from us than wisecracks and humor.”—A.W. Tozer

Romans 2: 14 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. 15 They 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...

Titus 1: 5 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.

Hebrews 9: 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

B. Our conscience needs to be informed and governed by God's Word

"God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in any thing contrary to his word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship." -The Westminster Confession

Acts 24: 14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, 15 having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. 16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

C. Our conscience must be nurtured and not neglected

1. The Wounded Conscience

Hebrews 10: 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience...

"There is nothing more valuable than a conscience that condemns us when we are wrong, and there is nothing sweeter than a conscience that is at rest once we've repented." –John Piper

2. The Seared Conscience

"To indulge in sins of thought, therefore, is to molest the conscience directly."
–John MacArthur

Proverbs 4: 23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 27: 12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.