

The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

The Conscience

1 John 3:18-22

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and **reassure** our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence** before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.



The Importance of a Good Conscience

Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day” (Acts 23:1).

“I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man” (Acts 24:16).



The Scripture speaks of three areas concerning the conscience.

1. The Unbelievers Conscience
2. The Baptized Conscience
3. The Uninformed Conscience



I. The Unbeliever's Conscience

Three Kinds:

A. Defiled

B. Seared

C. The Conflicted Conscience



A. The Defiled Conscience

Titus 1:15 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.**



B. The Seared Conscience

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose **consciences are seared.**



C. The Conflicted Conscience

Romans 2:15 [The nations] 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.



II. The Baptized Conscience

I Peter 3:21 baptism . . . the answer of a good conscience toward God.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart **in full assurance** of faith, having our hearts **sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.



III. The Conflicted Conscience

I Corinthians 8:4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”

I Corinthians 8:7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and **their conscience, being weak, is defiled.**



Don't Ask; Don't Tell

I Corinthians 10:25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience's sake.



Confidence Before God

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence before God**; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him (1 John 3:21-22).

