

Cleansing The Conscience

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The human conscience is central to how we navigate life, guiding our sense of right and wrong. However, our conscience is not infallible; it can be shaped by worldly influences, corrupted by sin, and burdened by guilt. Many believers find themselves trapped in cycles of condemnation, unable to move forward into the freedom Christ offers. Through His sacrifice, Jesus Christ not only redeemed us but provided a way to cleanse our conscience. Today, we are going to explore what the Bible says about the conscience, the problem of defilement, and the power of renewing that by the accomplished work of Jesus Christ. By understanding and applying these truths, we can live boldly before God and edify others in love and good works.

Romans 2:14 (KJV) *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew [demonstrates] the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience [Suniēsis = Habit Patterns] also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;*

“Their Conscience,” refers to the inner sense of right and wrong. It guides a person’s thoughts and actions, and is influenced by moral beliefs, experiences, and teachings. Thoughts control actions in human beings, so when we act on these beliefs, we form habit patterns. These Gentiles have an innate sense of morality, written in their hearts, (seat of personal life) which accuses or excuses their actions. Today, it is referred to as a “moral compass.” It stems from the heart. Not the physical organ, but the innermost part of their being. Hence, **Verse 15** is referring to the inner heart of man. They take these actions because it was something they learned growing up and not necessarily from the Word being taught to them.

The actions of a person are a result of their thoughts. If their thoughts are corrupted, then they will act accordingly. For example, a person who is born again of God’s Spirit, begins to learn God’s Word from other believers and the teaching of the rightly divided Word. Then an “old friend” returns to town and tells him all about his religion, the ways of life how it used to be, and his new ideas... Let’s call this friend, “THE OLD MAN.” that are contrary to the rightly divided Word. Then he allows these distorted ideas to “take hold” in his mind. The result will be a corrupted mind, yielding corrupted actions.

I Corinth 15:33: Be not deceived: evil communications [associations] corrupt [ruins, rots, destroys] good manners.

“Good manners” is the Greek word, **that means:** good, kind, benevolent, easy, pleasant, useful action. The corrupted words have replaced the good, kind useful words of God. And if he continues to act on those corrupted thoughts, he will have a difficult time getting back to the Rightly divided Word once again.

I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith [the right way of believing], giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines [teachings] of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy [with the hypocrisy of liars] being branded in their own conscience; having their conscience seared with a hot iron. [Their mind is branded with slanderous deception].

The conscience [suniesis, their habit patterns] are branded with slanderous deception. This is the end result of what started off as “evil associations”, which corrupted their minds. It rotted it, like we read in **I Corinth 15:33**. Consequently, their actions are now are corrupt. Bear in mind that these folks that have allowed this to happen, may never come back. But could they come back? Definitely. But it is a process, which we will see in a moment.

II Corinth 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled [tricked] Eve through his subtilty

[craftiness], **so your minds** [your thinking processes] **should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

This verse is full of some great stuff. I don't want to spend a lot of time on the Greek words used here, so let me just tell you about it. *Again, the product of thought is action.* Eve was tricked. Her mind considered what the devil said to her, and she acted on that information. Her thinking processes were corrupted by the adversary. Those actions resulted in grave results. Paul is saying here that he doesn't want the Corinthians to be tricked like that. The Word of God is simple. Renewing the mind is simple, although not necessarily easy at times.

I Corinthians 8:6: But to us there is but one God, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we in him [or "we exist for Him"]; **and one Lord Jesus Christ, by** [through] **whom are all things, and we by** [through] **him.** **7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience** [*suniesis*=habit patterns] **of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.**

I grew up in a certain denomination that believed that it was a sin to eat meat on Friday. Then, the rule changed and it was suddenly not a sin. My mother could not accept it. She still cooked her salmon paddies on Friday. It took her years to accept the change! The condition of the world after the fall of Adam was complete spiritual devastation, and the spiritual effect of this sin. **Romans 5** point this out.

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

The one man who caused sin to enter the world was Adam. By that one man's transgression, sin entered into the world, and death also entered into the world. The death brought about by Adam's sin, which was the loss of spirit, passed to all people. The spirit was life, and that was gone after the sin. Every man and woman after that event, and before the first coming of Jesus Christ, lacked that spirit life that had once existed. That spirit had to be restored. Not only that, but *physical* death also transpired after Adam's disobedience. Verse 18.

Verse 18 Therefore as by the offence of one [Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Jesus] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

In **Genesis 2:16,17.** God told Adam that if he were to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, then he was to die in that very day. Well, Adam transgressed that commandment, therefore the judgement came. Adam was condemned to the death spoken of by God, which as the loss of spirit life. It was gone! That condemnation and death passed to all of the people. Jesus Christ restored that spirit permanently at the time of the new birth. **Ephesians 2** states it plainly.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Even though people had breathing bodies and living souls, they were dead in trespasses and sins in that they were without spirit life. Various records in the Old Testament declared what the Savior of the world would accomplish by his life, death and resurrection. Let's look at the record in **Matthew 20** with regard to what Jesus Christ said was his mission.

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus was to give his life as a ransom for many. Our lives had to be bought back by God, as stated in

1 Corinthians 6:20. God had designated His Son Jesus Christ as the one whom He intended to take way the sin of the world.

Having accomplished what God wanted accomplished, Jesus Christ then made the gift of holy spirit available again on the Day of Pentecost. However, after the new birth was made available, people would have to learn how to renew their minds to what Christ had accomplished, and how this effected their life.

Over time, a person's conscience becomes defiled by sin, unbelief, and repeated exposure to unrighteousness.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience [*Suniēsis*] is defiled. **16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

A defiled conscience skews one's understanding and hinders their ability to walk in the fullness of God's Word and Will.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow [outline] of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they [Judeans] offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. **2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience [*Suniēsis*] of sins. **3** But in those sacrifices *there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. **4** For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [It was symbolic of the coming Christ]

These verses emphasize the **limitations of the Old Covenant** and its sacrificial system in dealing with sin and the conscience. While the law and its sacrifices were a shadow of the good things to come, they could never make the worshippers perfect or cleanse their conscience fully. Instead, these sacrifices continually reminded people of their sins. The old covenant sacrifices could not perfect the conscience of the worshippers, as they continually reminded them of sin. This record in Hebrews 10 is addressed to Jews who were born again. Their background was the law. The background of Gentiles wasn't the law so much but rather a pseudo-law developed by pagan worship. Both backgrounds were things that had to be abolished mentally, in order to live for the true God. Without the accomplished work of Christ, they could try all they wanted, but nothing they could do for themselves could help. Nothing they could do could take away sin.

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge [clean out] your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

How is this accomplished? How do we cleanse our conscience from dead works?

Ephesians 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ; **21** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. **25** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. **26** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: **27** Neither give place to the devil. **28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour

[clamorous bickering], and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

How do you get good at something? Practice, practice, practice. You practice doing something over and over. These verses are part of the road map to a cleansed conscience. You change your habit patterns; your life will change. It will be a new day! Your relationship with our Heavenly Father will get sweeter each and every day.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.[or, “for timely help].

It's Christ in you. Spend time learning more and more about that truth! That is cleansing the conscience.