

Your conscience is like a warning light telling you what you are contemplating doing is wrong.

2) ... can be deformed by sin.

When a person continually ignores the dictates of his conscience, the conscience can become faulty. You can take a perfectly good compass that is pointing north, and you can hold a magnet next to the compass, and the needle will rotate. If the magnet is held next to the compass for extended periods of time, the compass will eventually no longer be a reliable guide. The same thing happens to your conscience when you expose it to repeated acts of sin – it no longer is reliable guide. Your conscience doesn't become ruined instantly, it happens gradually.

a) Moral guidance is distorted .

The first thing that happens is your sense of right and wrong becomes distorted. Your conscience is like a triangle that operates within your soul. It has three sharp corners, and when you are considering doing something wrong, the three corners stab you on the inside. However, every time you ignore or deny your conscience it's like filing down the sharp edges of that triangle. The next time you are confronted with the same opportunity to do wrong, your conscience stabs you again, but this time the jab is not as sharp. Over time, as you continually resist the dictates of your conscience the sharp edges are worn down until you seldom feel them. Instead of being a triangle, it's as if your conscience has become a moral beach ball bouncing around inside your soul.

Have you ever told a lie? The first time perhaps you felt badly about it. But the next time you told it, the lie became a little easier to tell. We have all known people who were so good at lying they could look you right in the eye and lie without any sign of moral compunction or remorse. They have convinced themselves that telling a little lie is actually not so bad.

b) Moral guidance is deadened .

The reason you can't just let your conscience be your guide is because not only can your conscience become distorted and dull, it can actually become deadened. A person can commit sin so often over a period of time, his conscience can basically die. The Bible makes this possibility clear in I Timothy 4:1-2.

3) ... must be transformed by Jesus.

If you could spend your entire life listening to and obeying your God-given conscience, you could live a perfect life. But the Bible says we have ALL sinned and we fall short of the glory of God. That's why all of us end up with a messed-up conscience.

What do you do when you have a guilty conscience? The Bible answers that question in Hebrews 10:22. The Bible teaches a guilty conscience is a dirty conscience. It's like moral filth that you allow to accumulate that pollutes your soul. And when your conscience becomes dirty, it affects the way you look at others. Jesus can do two important things for a deformed, dirty conscience:

a) Cleanse by His Blood .

When people have a guilty conscience they do all kinds of things to get rid of their guilt. In certain areas around the world people crawl on their hands and knees up steep mountains to reach a church or altar. They think these painful acts of penitence will absolve them of their guilt. Other people throw themselves into religious activity trying to get rid of their guilt. But the Bible teaches that there is only one thing that can clean a dirty conscience—the Blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:14).

We all need to ask ourselves the question posed by the hymn writer Elisha Hoffman: "Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the

blood of the Lamb? Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you washed in the blood? In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb? Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?"

b) Correct by His Word .

Perhaps you've heard the story of man who worked in a small town factory. One of his jobs was to blow the factory whistle every day at 7, 12 and 4. Every morning on the way to work, he stopped and set his pocket watch by a large clock sitting in the window of a local jewelry store. Then he would know when to blow the whistle. After doing this for years, one day he happened to visit the jewelry store. He asked the owner how the clock in the shop window kept such perfect time. The owner said, "Oh, I set that clock every day by the factory whistle."

Your conscience is like a clock. If you set it to the wrong time, it will keep the wrong time, and it will be unreliable. But if you set it to the right time, it should be dependable. When you become a Christian, you "set" your conscience to the Bible-Word of God (II Timothy 3:16-17). God's Word always points you to Jesus and He becomes your standard for right and wrong.

When you become a follower of Jesus Christ, your determination of right and wrong is no longer dependent on your conscience because you know you can't let your conscience be your guide. You don't decide what is right or wrong by how you feel, because you have learned feelings can be unreliable. Your standard for morality is NOT what the majority of other people think, because most people think it okay to tell a lie every now and then.

Every airplane has a magnetic compass. The magnetic compass is only accurate when flying straight and level because whenever climbing, descending, or turning, the compass doesn't work properly. So every airplane has a gyroscopic compass called a "directional gyro" or a DG for short. This instrument is driven by a small gyroscope which maintains equilibrium even when the airplane is turning or climbing. But the DG is not a real compass, it must be set to match the magnetic compass, and it has to be reset frequently or it will not reflect the correct heading. Even so, as followers of Jesus, we must be constantly and continually recalibrating our consciences to the Word of God.

Conclusion

The Bible will guide you into an understanding of what is right and wrong, and it can also guide you into heaven. I recently read a true story about a teenage girl in Columbia South America who was given a Spanish New Testament. She read the New Testament until one day her father caught her reading it and told her not to read it anymore because it was full of lies and fantasy. But the girl kept on reading until one day her father came home unexpectedly found her with the New Testament grabbed it from her hands and shoved it into his briefcase. Then her father went off to work where he was a mining engineer. Several hours later there was a muffled explosion then the sound of sirens. There had been a cave-in at the mine. The father was trapped in the mine along with 30 other workers. The rescue workers took 5 days to finally reach the men, but it was too late. All 31 men died including the father of this little girl. Curiously, workers found the man clutching the New Testament between his praying hands. When they opened the front cover they found a note: "To my daughter: Keep reading this New Testament, it is true and right, and I will see you one day in heaven." Then they turned to the back page where the father had signed the commitment card after having said the sinner's prayer. But that was not the end of the story. Turning the page there were signed the names of the other 30 workers.

Should you let your conscience be your guide? Heaven forbid! Let God's Word illuminated by God's Spirit be your guide.

God's Spirit Is Our Guide!

Must We Always Agree?

Sometimes we, as Christians, are quick to judge others as to their relationship with God or the way they live their life. We know that there is a lot of false teaching and casual Christianity out there, and rightfully we don't want to get taken in by it. At the same time, the basis for our judgment isn't always the best. It's very easy for us to confuse our personal preferences with what the Bible teaches regarding an issue. Thus it's best to allow others the right to decide concerning principles or matters of conscience.

A shoplifter with a guilty conscience sent a letter to a department store and enclosed \$100. The letter explained, "I have just become a Christian, and I can't sleep at night because I feel guilty. Here is the \$100 I owe you." He signed the letter and at the bottom added this postscript, "If I still can't sleep,

I'll send you the rest."

Martin Luther King, Jr. once declared, "Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Consensus asks the question: Is it popular? Conscience asks: Is it right?" The Bible assigns conscience an important role in the Christian life. The Holy Spirit often works through the conscience, either to excuse or to convict. However, this does not mean that the conscience is infallible. Some people have seared their conscience and can no longer distinguish between right and wrong. Others suffer from a "weak" conscience. They feel guilty over actions that aren't inherently sinful.

In the Christian life, the conviction of our conscience should be taken seriously. Not only do we need to be sensitive to the prodding of our own conscience, it is important that we have regard for the conscience of others. Nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of Christian liberty.

This conflict over Christian liberty surfaced in two primary contexts for believers in Rome: in the decision whether or not to eat certain foods and how to observe the Sabbath. The danger was that divisive arguments were erupting over non-essentials. So there are words of warning and encouragement for the weak group and the strong group. Paul's main concern is for the spirit of unity in the church (Romans 15:5).

Chapter 14 of the Book of Romans deals with functioning in controversy, particularly controversies within the church family. Even in Rome the early church had already engaged in that most favorite of Christian Indoor Sports: judging other Christians. Thus the principle of acceptance of other Christians is

set forth here. Christians are at different levels of spiritual maturity. They also have diverse backgrounds that color their attitudes and practices. We are to stop judging other Christians over nonessentials and learn to live harmoniously with them. After all, God is the ultimate judge of our lives.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan
Sunday, August 21, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 24

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 25

W Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, August 27

Women's Bible Study....9:00 am

Sunday, August 28, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 31

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 1

G Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, September 3

Women's Bible Study....9:00 am

Up-Coming Events.....

August 20 — Women's Bible Study 9:00 am

August 28 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

September 5 — Labor Day! No Food Kitchen

September 14 — Prayer Warriors

September 18 — SJBA Annual Meeting Green Valley Baptist

Church 4:00 pm

— Collect for food Pantry

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

**Diversicare Nursing Home
August 28, 2016
at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

**Sunday School Worker's Meeting
Monday, August 29
6:30 pm**

Our Patee Park Food Pantry Giving for the Months of:

May—\$90.00

June—\$105.00

July—\$100.00

See You At the Pole

SEE YOU AT THE POLE day is Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 a.m. local time. All around the globe, in every time zone, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE in prayer for our generation! Please continue to pray for Those in the schools of our city.

Prayer Warriors

Wednesday, September 14

10:00 am

Here at the church.

For the Record-

Attendance: August 14, 2016

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	4
Morning Worship.....	49
Children's Worship.....	N/A

Sunday NightN/A
Wednesday Night 14

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget..... \$ 2,040.52
Offering Received... \$ 2,169.83

Offering Received by Mail:

August Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

August Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 **before 8 am**

August Member Birthdays:

02...Darlene Messner
09...Dottie Wildberger
18...Don Beavers
18...Tonia Meers
22...Beverly Lewis

August Anniversaries

David and Annette Schottel
August 5, 1989

Tim and Sharon Waters
August 10, 1985

Prayer Requests ...

Karissa and Matt Long
Nellie Reynolds—strength
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia Hart's Family
Audrey Dugan—strength
Tim Izer and Family
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Jim Winans, surgery recovery
Alicia McKinnon
Dakota Duty, recovery
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Children's Camp
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer— Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris Richardson's sisters
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
