

CONSCIENCE

THE WAY OF CAIN → RAISING CAIN

INTRODUCTION...

One of the Blessing given to all of Humanity is the *Gift of Conscience!*

Every person, regardless of geography, culture, ethnicity, or background, has been given the *Gift of a Conscience.*

It is for this reason that every person will have to give an account to God for their life whether they've been exposed to the message of the Gospel or not!

Thank God for the Gift of **Conscience...**

Imagine a Society with NO **Conscience.** Evil would be widespread, with no deterrence defund police. Nothing to stop the Bad, the Ugly, the Evil from happening.

It is the **Conscience,** that does not permit Society from falling apart and becoming entirely and Grossly Wicked.

The word **Conscience** is a significant subject in the **Word of God!** It is mentioned specifically **31** times in the **KJV** of the Bible!

The Bible has much to say about the **Conscience...**

1. Good **Conscience** **Act 23:1; 1Ti 1:5, 19; Heb 13:18; 1Pe 3:16**
2. Pure **Conscience** **1Ti 3:9; 2Ti 1:3**
3. **Conscience** Toward God **1Pe 2:19; 1Pe 3:21**
4. **Conscience** Void of Offense **Act 24:16**
5. **Conscience** Bearing Witness **Rom 2:15; Rom 9:1**
6. Purged **Conscience** **Heb 9:14**
7. Weak **Conscience** **1Co 8:7, 12**
8. Sin **Conscience** **Heb 10:2**
9. Defiled **Conscience** **Tit1:15**
10. Seared **Conscience** **1Ti4:2** insensitive, hardened, calloused, no longer listens to its promptings
11. Evil **Conscience** **Heb 10:22**

I. FROM WHERE DOES THE CONSCIENCE COME FROM?

The **Conscience** comes from God...

A. What makes MAN distinct and unique from all of God's creation is...

① God created **MAN** in *HIS Image and Likeness* ② God's *Breath* is in MAN!

1. **Gen 1:26** And God **Elohim** said, let us make man in Our Image, after Our Likeness: **ESV**

2. **Gen 2:7** And the LORD God **Elohim** formed man of the dust from the ground, and Breathed into his Nostrils the Breath of Life; and man became a Living Creature. **ESV**

a. God Himself *Breathed into* Adam's *Nostrils*, the Essence/Embodiment of His very own Nature.

In doing so, God Implanted the **Conscience** God Standard in man!

b. God's Standard, our **Conscience**, has been integrated into our nature. This is why we can ☞ Sense good and evil, right and wrong. And intuitively we know from our **Conscience**, we will ultimately be held responsible for our behavior.

Rom 2:15 who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their **Conscience** also bearing witness, and the thoughts between one another accusing or even excusing one another,

II. WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE?

Conscience 4893 *συνείδησις*, *Suneidēsis*;

It's a inner Knowing, an awareness that helps you to distinguish between Right and Wrong and prompts you to choose the Right and avoid the Wrong ws.

✚ It's a persisting notion, impression, an inward mindfulness of ones' actions being Good or Bad Mounce.

A. **Conscience** - Is that part of your inner self that is Unashamedly and Brutally Honest with yourself.

1. **Conscience** is like the Sheriff of God's Law in your Inner Being that keeps your life Orderly and Decently!
2. **Conscience** Approves or Disapproves of actions taken, by the **Internal Moral Value**, that God has put inside of you (when formed in the womb).

- a. If what you do is in Harmony, with the **God Value Inside** of you, **Conscience**; you will feel a sense of satisfaction, good and peace!
- b. If what you do Conflicts with the **God Value Inside** of you, **Conscience**; you will immediately sense feelings of regret, guilt and disappointment.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF **VIOLATING YOUR CONSCIENCE**...

There are Consequences for Violating your **Conscience**. Nothing good ever comes from Ignoring the *Instructive Guidance* of your **Conscience**!

A. Yet, most people never give it a 2nd thought, to the risk they are taking when they proceed to Violate their **Conscience**.

1Ti 1:19 holding Faith and a Good **Conscience**, which some have Put Away and Made Shipwreck as to Faith. MKJV

1. You can Reject or Intentionally Ignore/Resist the good that your **Conscience** is telling you.
 - a. But know when you do, you potentially can WRECK your Faith.
2. Many have Shipwreck ⇒ smashed up, broken into pieces, their Faith, their Relationship with the Lord by *pushing to the side* their **Conscience**!

3. There is a price to pay for rejecting for disobeying for not listening to your *Conscience*.

IV. THE WAY OF CAIN ⇨ RAISING CAIN...

In **Jude 1:11** we find this curious yet insightful phrase...

“...they have gone in The Way of Cain”

- A. Jude teaches us that Cain exemplifies a *Way* that certain people follow that is Unacceptable to God.

- B. For the of "*Way of Cain*" is the Way of Ignoring and Rejecting your *Conscience*. It is the Way of Resisting **Gen 4:7** and Choosing *NOT TO DO* what God is telling you to DO!

- C. In **Genesis 4** we have the account of the 1st recorded murder in the history of the world. It was a brutal assault between two brothers motivated by jealousy and envy.

Gen 4:8 And Cain talked with his brother Abel. And it happened when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. MKJV

1. What is most unfortunate and sad about this account is that it did not have to happen! Had Cain just listened to his *Conscience!*
- a. Isn't that how it is in most cases? Things happen that didn't have to, had we just followed the lead INSTRUCTIVE GUIDANCE of our *Conscience!*

2. **Gen 4:7** God had told Cain ⇨ **If You** Do Well, shall you not be Accepted honored? **And If You** Do Not Do Well, Sin crouches at the door; and its desire is for you, and you shall rule over it. MKJV
- a. **If You** DO WELL ⇨ in this verse we see the proof/evidence of the struggle in Cain's *Conscience*. The struggle between Doing Right or Doing Wrong.

1) God was reinforcing in Cain the ‘Will to Do’ what was Right. But God was also letting Cain know, there would be Consequences should he not do Right.

b. Cain’s *Conscience* had been telling him to “**DO WELL**”, do what was right and proper. But for reasons unknown to us, Cain *Resisted* and eventually *Rejected* his *Conscience*, leading him to DO the UNTHINKABLE!

3. **If You DO NOT DO WELL** ⇒ When we Violate, Put Aside, Ignore our *Conscience*, the *Consequences* collateral damage will follow, be it immediately or later but they will certainly follow.

a. **Sin** crouches **at the door** ⇒ meaning, if you do not DO what you know deep down inside of you (C) to be right, then *Sin* like a wild savage beast is ready to Jump and Beat pounce on you.

1) **1 Pet 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your Adversary the devil prowls around Like a roaring Lion, SEEKING someone to Devour. ESV

2) Who is he Looking for? He is Looking for the person who is Ignoring, Resisting the *Instructive Guidance* of their *Conscience*!

4. **ITS {sin} DESIRE is for You** ⇒ Sin is always looking for a way to get into our lives.

We see how it crept into Cain’s life as he Ignored and proceeded to Reject his *Conscience* by Failing to DO what he knew to be Right!

a. We must guard ourselves by giving importance to what our *Conscience* is telling us.

1) **Eph 4:27** and Give **No Opportunity to the devil**. ESV

- **Opportunity** – 5117 **τόπος, όπος**; give place/space/spot; make room
- Don't open a door for the devil to work in your life. He can only kill and steal as he finds a place in some life to do his evil work.

V. PETER'S LIFE GIVES ME HOPE...

Lk 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has Desired You, that he may Sift *You* as wheat.

32 But I have **PRAYED** for You, that your Faith Fails Not. And when you are converted, strengthen your brothers. MKJV

A. It is comforting, encouraging and motivating to know that the King of all kings, the Lord of all lord's, the God that was from the beginning and became flesh and dwelt among us is **Praying** for me and **Interceding** for ME, when I am accused of the devil.

1. **Desired You** – 1809 **ἐξαιτέω, Exaitéō**; it means to obtain by asking vws. To claim back; to be delivered up ws.
2. **Prayed for You** – On behalf of You. Intervening, involving Himself in our situations, to alter any action or development of harm in our lives. Freedictionary.c
 - a. **Heb 7:25** Therefore He is able also to Save to the uttermost those who Come unto God by Him, since He ever lives to make **Intercession** for them. MKJV
 - 1) **SAVE** – 4982 **σώζω, só' zō**; deliver, make whole (well), preserve safe from danger, loss,
3. We know that Peter was able to overcome his failures because Jesus **Prayed** for him...

In the same way, Jesus is **Praying** for us TODAY like He **Prayed** for Peter yesterday!

1Jn 2:1 I am writing this to you, my children, so that you will not sin; but if anyone does sin, we have someone who **Pleads** with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one.

Jn. 8:9 And they which heard it, being Convicted by their own Conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.