

## Your Conscience and the Holy Spirit

Do you have a conscience? Have you always had a conscience or did you get your conscience when you received Christ as Savior? Is your conscience another name for the Holy Spirit? These are some of the questions we are going to seek to answer in this lesson.

### **When did we receive our conscience?**

Titus 1:15 tells us that the defiled and unbelieving have a defiled conscience. It is obvious that all of us have a conscience that we receive when we are born into this world.

### **This brand new conscience was then open to be taught. Who would provide this all important training?**

The first ones to impart beliefs and ideas were the parents. For the first few years they had almost complete control of this training. Whatever TV they allow the baby to watch, whatever music is played when the baby is present all have a part in training this conscience in what is good and what is bad. Of course the church attended will play a large part in imparting what is right and what is wrong. The teachers in school whether public, private or even home school will continue this process. But the ones to put the final touches on this sensitive conscience are the friends the child is allowed to play with and especially those friends that he or she chooses for herself. Perhaps you are beginning to see why all of us have different consciences, which means that we all have different ideas of what is right and what is wrong.

## **With all these differences, of what use is our conscience to God?**

Our conscience is useful to God because we all fail to obey our own conscience. When the Gospel is preached to us and the preacher says, "All of us are sinners in need of a Savior." Our conscience immediately goes to work reminding us of our sins and that we are absolutely unable to even do that which we believe to be right, not to mention the things that God says that He expects of us. Even after we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit uses our conscience to remind of what He has taught us from the Word of God. Again and again we read in the Bible about our having a pure conscience. Consider I Timothy 3:9 "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." Paul even tells us in Acts 24:16 "Herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man." It is important that a Christian not offend his conscience in any way. God gave you your conscience to be a guide and to stop you from doing evil. Some try to get around their conscience by saying that their conscience might be wrong or that other Christians are doing these things so why shouldn't I. We should never violate our conscience unless the **Scriptures** make it clear that our conscience is wrong. Those who violate their own conscience will suffer from much guilt which can cause physical ailments and even mental problems. King Saul violated his own conscience about murder, as he went about to kill David and went "out of his

mind".

## **Does the Bible take precedence over our conscience?**

It is important to remember that God's Word is far more important than your conscience. Remember, even the most tender conscience trained by the very best of parents and teachers, is still inferior to the Word of God. You will spend the rest of your Christian life trying to get your conscience up to date with the Bible. What this means is that we should spend much time in the Word of God and should not be satisfied that our conscience will do the job. Some Christians have even been heard to say that no matter what the Bible says, "My conscience does not bother me; I can do anything as long as my conscience does not bother me." However, in Psalm 119:11 we read, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." You may feel good since your conscience is not bothering you, but you will be sinning against God, and think of the consequences of that.

### **Is the Holy Spirit the same as your conscience?**

No, in no way! The HS will use your conscience to bring you to Christ and to help you as a new Christian. But His primary work is to use the Word of God to remind you of sin and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Read John 16:13,14

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