

A GOOD CONSCIENCE

I PETER 3:16-17

BACKGROUND: Every person is born with a God-given conscience. “The conscience is the divinely placed internal mechanism that either accuses or excuses a person, acting as a means of conviction or affirmation.... The conscience, however, is not infallible. It is neither the voice of God, nor His moral law.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: I Peter, p. 202.

WAS GOD-GIVEN to you when you were born again. It was then that God took all your sin (past, present, and future) to the cross. On that cross Jesus gave His blood for you—paying for your sins, removing all your guilt, and giving you a new and good conscience. (**I Peter 3:16, Hebrews 9:12-14, fn 9:12-14, Hebrews 10:15-22, fn 10:21-22, Colossians 1:20, fn 1:20, Job 27:6, fn 27:6**) *Why or why should you not keep asking for forgiveness for the same sin?*

KEEP DEVELOPING IT like a line that you will not cross even though the sinful temptation of your flesh is strong. Make sure you will not compromise your desire to please God with a good conscience. A good conscience is being continually developed by the Holy Spirit by (1) spending time in God’s Word, (2) weekly meeting in small groups, and (3) weekly worshipping in church. (**I Peter 3:16, I Timothy 1:18-19, fn 1:19, Hebrews 10:25, fn 10:25, Acts 5:42, fn 5:42, I Timothy 1:3-6, fn 1:5, Acts 23:1, Acts 24:15-16, I John 1:9, fn 1:9[2nd]**) *How could you continue to develop your good conscience?*

REMOVES THE FEAR of what other people may know about us, say against us, or do to us. When Christ is Lord and we fear only God, we need not fear the threats, opinions, or actions of our enemies.” Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament, Volume II, p. 414. (**I Peter 3:15-17, fn 3:15[1st], I Peter 2:12, fn 2:12, Psalm 27:1, fn 27:1, I Peter 4:12-16, fn 4:16**) *How is a good conscience invaluable when enduring personal attacks on your integrity?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

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