



Human Conscience - God's Radar & Compass

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (1 John 3:21).

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"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (1 John 3:19-21).

When God created man and woman, He put in them conscience that serve the purpose akin to a:

- 1) Radar - for the detection of things (e.g. danger or opportunities) that may not be immediately visible to the naked eye.
- 2) Compass - for guidance through the "wilderness" of this world to the right destination.

In its original state, the conscience takes its bearing from God's principles as illustrated in these scriptures:

- 1) Romans 2:12-15 "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; 13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 14 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 the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"
- 2) John 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

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alone, and the woman standing in the midst".

- 3) Romans 9:1 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my **conscience** also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost".
- 4) 2 Corinthians 5:11 "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your **consciences**".

In its correct state, the magnet in the compass takes its bearing with respect to the earth's magnetic field, and therefore the direction is always correct. If however the magnet inside the compass is desensitised, the dial in the compass will still work, but it is no longer taking its bearing from the earth's magnetic field and therefore will lead to wrong destinations. In a like manner a malfunctioning radar will fail to locate correctly the targets it was designed to. Similarly, our conscience can become de-sensitised as a result of what we have done to or put into it, to the point that it loses its bearing to God's principles. It will still work powerfully as "conscience" but it is no longer 100% directed by God's principles as illustrated in the scriptures listed below. The consequences are that it will fail to locate sources of danger / opportunities and 'guide' to a wrong destiny.

- 1) 1 Timothy 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience** seared with a hot iron".

2) 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** is defiled".

3) I Corinthians 8:7 "Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with **conscience** of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their **conscience** being weak is defiled".

How a person maintains his / her conscience with respect to God's original design, could result in different types of conscience including, but not limited to:

1) Pure conscience - I Timothy 3:9 "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure **conscience**".

2) Good Conscience - I Peter 3:16 "Having a good **conscience**; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ".

3) Weak conscience - I Corinthians 8:10 "For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the **conscience** of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;"

4) Defiled Conscience - I Corinthians 8:7 (see above).

5) Evil Conscience - Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil **conscience**, and our bodies washed with pure water".

6) Conscience of sin - Hebrews 10:2 "For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more **conscience** of sins".

A de-sensitised conscience can be restored back to its true God oriented state through

1) Spiritual exercise of discipline - Acts

24:16 "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a **conscience** void of offence toward God, and toward men".

2) Submission to God's ordained order of authority - Romans 13:5 "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for **conscience** sake".

3) Carefulness in human relations - I Corinthians 8:12 "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak **conscience**, ye sin against Christ".

4) Obedience to God's commandments - I Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good **conscience**, and of faith unfeigned".

5) Cleansing by the blood of Jesus - Hebrews 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your **conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?"

6) Endurance - I Peter 2:19 "For this is thankworthy, if a man for **conscience** toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully".

7) Doing the right thing - I Peter 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good **conscience** toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ".

God has given us a powerful tool to assist us in our pilgrimage through this earth and into an eternity in heaven. It is our responsibility to make the best use and take great care of this tool so it can help us as originally intended by God - its maker. Take care of your conscience and it will guide you safely to the heavenly harbour.