

Did a Guilty Conscience Save Him?

Luke 23:39-43 - One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!” But the other criminal protested, “**Don’t you fear God** even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What Is the Fear of the Lord?

Exodus 20:20 - “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that **your fear of him will keep you from sinning!**”

Proverbs 9:10 - **Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom.** Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

Job 28:28 - And this is what he says to all humanity: “The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; **to forsake evil is real understanding.**”

What is Sin?

Sin Dictionary Definition - an immoral act considered to be a **transgression against divine law.**

The Law is written on our heart

Deuteronomy 5:29 - Oh, that they would always have hearts like this, that they might fear me and obey all my commands! If they did, they and their descendants would prosper forever.

Jeremiah 31:33 - “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Romans 2:13-15 - For merely listening to the law doesn’t make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. **They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.**

Sin = Guilty Conscience

What does a guilty conscience feel like?

Genesis 2:25 - Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:6-7 - ...So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Genesis 9:10 - Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

Guilty Conscience > Shame > Hide from God

1 Timothy 4:1-2 - Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.

Titus 1:15-16 - Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

What if you have a guilty conscience over something...is it always sin?

- You have most likely used the phrase, “I should.”
- That phrase implies guilt.
- To do something for the Lord correctly, the agenda must be based in love.
- If you aren’t sure if something is a sin...it most likely is. Seek wise counsel.
- **Conscience** - conformity to what one considers to be correct, right, or morally good
- Romans 14:22-23 - ...Blessed are those who don’t feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.
- Is your guilty conscience a result of the fear of the Lord or fear of man?

