



*Berean Family Worship Center*  
*One Church In Two Cities*  
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Wednesday, July 14, 2021 - Group Study  
**Lesson Series: Understanding The Conscience**

Lesson Series Text: *(Acts 24:16)*

**Lesson 1: How The Conscience Work**

Lesson 1 Text: *(Rom. 2:14-15)*

**All Scriptures are KJV; unless otherwise noted.**

**Prepared By Dr. Walter Henderson III**

- I. Definition: Conscience (*Sune-i-de-sis*) is a knowing with, co-knowledge with oneself, or the faculty by which we use to understand our guiltiness before God, the internal moral witness found in every mankind. <sup>1</sup>*(Vine's Expository Dictionary of The new Testament Words)*
- II. The purpose of the conscience is to bear witness to our spirit, the moral rightness of our decisions or actions. The conscience works in two ways:
  - A. Preventive - to prevent us from committing sin in order to please God.
  - B. Corrective - to convict us when we have sinned.
    - a. *(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: 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: Rom. 2:14-15 )*
    - b. *(I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, Rom. 9:1)*
    - c. *(For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. 2 Cor. 1:12)*
- III. Every human being saved or unsaved has a conscience: *(Rom. 2:14-15, 2 Cor. 4:2 - But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.)*
  - A. The word "gentiles" *(Rom. 2:14)* is a word designated by the Jewish People to indicate people who were not in covenant with the Lord.
  - B. Paul spoke of "every man's conscience".
- IV. The conscience is located in the human spirit. *(By this the Holy Spirit points out that the way into the [true Holy of] Holies is not yet thrown open as long as the former [the outer portion of the] tabernacle remains a recognized institution and is still standing,<sup>9</sup> Seeing that that first [outer portion of the] tabernacle was a parable (a visible symbol or type or picture of the present age). In it gifts and sacrifices are*

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*offered, and yet are incapable of perfecting the conscience or of cleansing and renewing the inner man of the worshiper. Seeing that that first [outer portion of the] tabernacle was a parable (a visible symbol or type or picture of the present age). In it gifts and sacrifices are offered, and yet are incapable of perfecting the conscience or of cleansing and renewing the inner man of the worshiper. Heb. 9:8-9 AMPC)*

- A. The “inner man” is the spiritual man or man’s own spirit.
- V. Our spirit knows our innermost thoughts. (*1 Cor. 2:11*)
  - A. (*The Lord's light penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive. Pro. 20:27 NLT*)
  - B. (*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 1 Cor. 2:11*)
- VI. In order for the conscience to work properly, we must be saved.
  - A. The believer’s conscience is cleansed. (*Heb. 9:14; Heb. 10:21-22*)
  - B. The unbeliever’s conscience is in a state of uncleanness.
    - a. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (*1 Tim. 4:1-2*)
    - b. (*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. 1 Cor. 8:7*)
    - c. (*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. Tit. 1:15*)
- VII. The mind must be renewed in knowledge of God’s word in order to better understand the spirit of the Law. (*Rom. 12:1-2*)

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