

Enduring Grief For Conscience Toward God

I. Introduction:

A. Timothy was instructed to have a good; pure conscience (**I Timothy 1:5; 3:9**).

1. Some erred because they had put away their consciences (**I Timothy 1:19-20**).
2. Some erred because their consciences had become seared (**I Timothy 4:1-5**).
3. We don't want to err. We want to be able to rejoice in that our consciences should testify for us that we have lived with godly sincerity in this world (**II Corinthians 1:12**).

B. We, who are in Christ, are blessed to have our consciences cleared (**Hebrews 9:14; 10:22**).

1. That allows us to see things with purity (**Titus 1:15**).
2. Think about purity, innocence, and humility as it relates to one's conscience (**Matthew 18:1-4** and **I Corinthians 14:20**).

II. Body: **I Peter 2:19-20**

A. The Greek word “συνείδησις” that is translated conscience in a context we are going to look at is about one's “moral consciousness” (Strong's # 4893). I.E. **Romans 2:12-16**

1. You can be convicted by your conscience (**John 8:1-11**).
2. You can live in good conscience (**Acts 23:1; 24:16**), but still be wrong with God (**I Corinthians 15:9** and **Galatians 1:13**).
3. The conscience can be defiled, misled, wounded, etc. (**I Corinthians 8:1-13**).
4. In matters of authorized liberty, there are times wherein it is best not to know something for the sake of your conscience (**I Corinthians 10:25-27**).
5. Sadly, some get to the point wherein they are “past feeling” (**Ephesians 4:17-19**).

B. Grief and suffering wrongly because of a conscience toward God (**I Peter 3:14-18**).

1. Some people mistakenly trust that their conscience is guided by God and they err thinking they're doing service to God (**John 16:1-3**).
2. Our sense of right and wrong needs to be rooted in God's will and not our own (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).
3. Recognize that your actions are in the sight of God (**II Corinthians 4:2**).

C. There are attributes of being a Christian, with a good conscience, that can get us into situations wherein we suffer wrongly or are caused grief. Put some thought into that...

1. Conscientious saints speak the truth (**Ephesians 4:25**). How could that possibly get you in trouble with the world that may be trying to catch you in your words (**Mark 12:13**)?
2. Conscientious saints won't take a brother to court (**I Corinthians 6:1-8**). Couldn't that put us in situations with those professing to be our brethren wherein someone could err and take advantage of that? They could get away with it carnally - until the Judgment Day (**I Thessalonians 4:6**).
3. Conscientious saints are peacemakers (**Matthew 5:9** and **Hebrews 12:14**). How could that get in you into trouble with people of the world?
4. Conscientious Christians are not vengeful (**Proverbs 24:29**, **Matthew 5:43-46**, and **Romans 12:19-21**). How could that get you into trouble with people of the world?
5. Disciples of the Lord with a good conscience will be merciful and Biblically forgiving (**Matthew 5:7**, **Matthew 18:15-35**, and **Luke 17:1-5**). How could that put you in a vulnerable spot with others in the world and the body of Christ?
6. A conscience towards God will have us obey the laws of men (**Romans 13:1-7**) unless they would cause us to err (**Acts 5:29**). Think about how that can cause us grief.
7. Think about ways in which a weak conscience (**Romans 14:1-2**) could cause unnecessary grief. I.E. someone could give up job security because they believe they are erring in some way in which they are not.

III. Conclusion: Remember the example of Jesus in suffering (**I Peter 4:1-2**). Even when mistreated He lived with a conscience toward God (**I Peter 2:21-25**).