

# Titus (Week 20)

*Tit 1:15-16*

## What is a conscience?

It's an **inner faculty** that acts as a **witness**, a **judge** and a **guide** for moral behavior or **godliness**, reflecting the word of God written on the human heart of the believer.

The Greek word for conscience in Titus is **suneidesis**.

- Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary
  - That **process of thought** which distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad, and so prompting to do the former and avoid the latter. [Vine]
    - It's the **evaluator of the soul**.
  - A **co-knowledge (with oneself)**, the witness borne to one's conduct by conscience, that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God, as that which is designed to **govern our lives**. [Vine]

We are commanded to **keep a good conscience**. *1Pe 3:16*

You "keep" a good conscience by:

- feeding the **proper information** to your **soul**, which the conscience is part of. By feeding it truth, **True Knowledge**.
- After feeding the soul with that **True Knowledge**, that **sound doctrine**, you then **obey** the **conscience** with your lifestyle – what you think, say, and do.

**Your soul is a delicate thing!** Be mindful of what you feed it. Just like our physical bodies, feeding it the wrong things is going to have consequences and ill effects.

Your mind and soul are the battleground between the **flesh** (our bodies), which is corrupted, and the **Holy Spirit**, each seeking to dominate them. (Rom 8:6-8, Gal 5:16-18, Eph 6:16-17)

The conscience is that little voice in us that says "NO!". Gal 5:18

The **conscience** is the part of the soul that **determines the quality** of one's thoughts, intentions, decisions, and actions. *2Co 1:12*

We noted the connection between **conscience** and **conduct**, and it's in Grace.

Our conscience is to regulate thoughts, words and actions according to the sound doctrine in our souls that the Holy Spirit has condensed into a set of spiritual standards. This doesn't happen unless you are taking in the word of God, feeding on it consistently. *1Ti 1:5*

Like the body, the conscience can be weak or strong. No one has a **strong conscience** until they reach some form of **spiritual maturity**. *1Co 8:7*

Every decision and application you make in life, you make from your own conscience. So, the **conscience is therefore a motivator**.

We noted that there are two directions the conscience operates in: toward **God** and toward **men**. *Act 24:16*

True knowledge will **develop our balanced conscience** by supplying the proper standards for our relationship with **God**, as well as for our relationships with **people**, from the appropriate Biblical principles. *1 Peter 2:19, 1 Pet 3:16, 1Ti 1:18-20*

There is a difference between a moral conscience of the flesh, and one of the believer. *2Co 5:17*

We also saw the consequences of NOT keeping a good conscience. *1Ti 1:19-20*

So, the conscience can be "seared" or "defiled". *1Ti 4:1-2*

#### **A seared conscience is:**

- **A loss of sensitivity:**
  - Like a wound that's been cauterized, a seared conscience has lost its ability to feel the sting of shame over wrongdoing, quenching the Spirit. (1TH 5:19)
- **A result of habitual sin:**
  - It's not a sudden event, **but** develops over time as a person repeatedly disobeys God, suppresses conviction, and rationalizes their actions. In essence, grieving the Spirit (Eph 4:30)
  - Remember, we as believers will continue to sin in our flesh. The difference is our conscience, when it's controlled by the Spirit, convicts us otherwise. A result of our spiritual growth.
- **Marked by hypocrisy:**
  - Those with **seared consciences** often speak lies in hypocrisy and may promote harmful doctrines, as we saw in 1 Timothy 4:2.
- **No longer responsive to the Holy Spirit:**
  - The Spirit's influence is not present in their conscience, hence the grieving and quenching.

**What is the preventative of a seared conscience, or even the Cure or restoration of one?**

First and foremost, take in the word of God consistently! Fill your soul with spiritual food. A good conscience comes from instruction.

*1Th 5:16-24, Php 4:6, Php 4:7, Rom 12:1-2, Heb 9:11-14* But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and **not through the blood of goats and calves**, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

In summary, keeping a good conscience, or restoring your conscience will:

- Guard you from the pitfalls and the deception of the world.
- Strengthen your spirit, mind and body.
- Guide your path to spiritual maturity.
- Enable your Godly living.
- Allow you to become an example and witness to those around you.
- Render you neither useless nor worthless for any good deed.
- Strengthen your relationship with the Lord.
- Allow you to Glorify Him in your spiritual life.

Let's look again at a high level outline of this epistle:

<b>Chapter 1 (Church Leadership)</b>	
Verses 1-4	Greeting and Declaration
Verses 5-16	Titus' Charge, the qualifications for elders and warnings/comparison of rebellious men who turn away from the truth.
<b>Chapter 2 (Sound Teaching)</b>	
Verses 1-15	What Titus (and elders) are to teach to the believing congregation by way of example, impacting their lives.
<b>Chapter 3 (Godly Living, Sanctified lives)</b>	
Verses 1-11	The call for, and importance of good deeds, and a reminder of who they are
Verses 12-15	Ending instructions and final greeting