

You and Your Conscience

“How to Have a Good Conscience”

I. Your conscience is your personal inward moral monitor

Rom 2:14 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 show 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;

II. God wants you to have a good conscience

1 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.

Six things necessary for a Christian to have a good conscience

1. Obey the scriptures. *James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
2. Follow scriptural principles when the scriptures are not specific. *(see Christian Conduct Checklist)*
3. Do not defile your conscience. *1Cor 8:7 b. 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.*
4. Continue to strengthen your conscience. *1Cor 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.*
5. Confess your sins to God. *1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
6. Above all, have fervent charity. *1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*
 - A. Care for the other person's wealth and profit more than your own. Do not wound another's conscience. *1Cor 10:24,32 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*
 - B. Don't despise or judge your brother who believes differently than you. *Rom 14:5 One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*

III. Rejoice in the testimony of a good conscience

2 Corinthians 1:12 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.

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Christian Conduct Checklist

An answer of yes to any of these questions means “Don’t do it.”

1. Does it violate clear, explicit scripture warnings? (2Timothy 3:16; James 1:22)
2. Is it illegal? (Rom 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1Pet 2:13,14)
3. Could it hinder the gospel? (1Cor 9:11,12)
4. Does it have the appearance of evil? (1Thes 5:22; Rom 14:16)
5. Will it defile my body? (1Cor 3:17)
6. Is it a bad example? (1Tim 4:12; Rom 14:7)
7. Is it doubtful? (Rom 14:22,23)
8. Does it defile my conscience? (1Cor 8:7,10,11; Rom 14:5,6,14,20,22)
9. Does it tear down instead of edify others? (Rom 14:9,19; 1Cor 10:23)
10. Is it difficult to do it to the glory of God? (1Cor 10:31)
11. Does it wound another’s conscience? (Rom 14:13,15,21; 1Cor 8:9-13; 10:32)