



## “It’s Always Right To Get Right” I Timothy 1:18–20

Timothy was a pastor in Ephesus, a city of ungodly pagan worship and witchcraft. Paul was giving Timothy instruction to what it was going to take to serve the Lord in a situation of constant spiritual warfare. Paul emphasized the importance of holding to the faith and a good conscience. This is referring to the soundness of doctrine one holds to and having the clarity to discern between right and wrong. The word conscience means, “*a knowing of oneself, consciousness; and hence conscience, that faculty of the soul which distinguishes between right and wrong and prompts one to choose the former and avoid the latter.*” The health of our conscience is related to what we believe to be truth. This lesson will help us know how to keep our conscience clear of offenses we have committed against God and others.

### I. Important Principles Concerning the Conscience

A. We are to work hard to maintain a conscience \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ with God and man (Acts 24:16).

- *Exercise* – train, discipline
- *To have always* – to possess through all time or continually
- *A conscience* – a perception, moral consciousness
- *void of offense* – faultless, not led into sin
- *Toward God* – in my heart
- *And toward men* – in my actions

B. Becoming shipwrecked has serious \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Wrecked ships leave you \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Wrecked ships could no longer be used for their intended \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Wrecked ships meant a great \_\_\_\_\_ of revenue.
- C. Maintaining a clear conscience is the other side of the coin to forgiving those that have wronged us. We must be willing to get right with those we have hurt (Acts 23:1–5).
- D. The scope of forgiveness needs to be no greater than the scope of the offense. We should not share things about ourselves with those that are not a part of the problem or the solution.
- E. When we seek forgiveness over the wrong that we have done we help to free others of their bitterness toward us. It is important to make a list of those that have something against you.

## II. Marks of a good conscience

- A. They are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ wrongfully (1 Pe. 2:19).
- B. They are living an \_\_\_\_\_ life (Heb. 13:18).
- C. They show \_\_\_\_\_ to others (1 Tim. 1:5).

## III. Dealing with Old Offenses

- A. Digging up old offenses can bring a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ into present situations if we are not wise.
- B. We may need to \_\_\_\_\_ and have the Lord set up circumstances to get things right with certain people.

1. Sometimes digging up the past may cause issues in that person's present situation.
  2. Sometimes you will not know \_\_\_\_\_ the people are that you need to get right with.
  3. We should be \_\_\_\_\_ to get things right when the Lord brings these people across our path.
- C. Satan can get advantage in our lives if we keep looking \_\_\_\_\_. Get things right and move on (Luke 9:62; I Tim 1:5).

#### IV. Trying to forget the past

- A. Trying to forget the past makes you think about it \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ for when Satan accuses you of your past
1. Let that memory be a reminder of what happens when you are in \_\_\_\_\_ of your life. Thank the Lord in prayer for taking control of your life every time Satan throws your past at you (1 Pe. 2:25).
  2. Paul turned his painful memories into occasions of \_\_\_\_\_ and thanksgiving for the abundance of \_\_\_\_\_ bestowed upon him (1 Cor. 15:9; Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:12–15).

## Having a Clear Conscience

Having a conscience free from guilt means clearing all offenses against others and, where possible, seeking forgiveness and making restitution. God is involved in this process, as shown below.

1. If someone you know was making a list of people who had hurt them and never asked their forgiveness, would you be on that list? Pray, asking God to reveal anyone who might feel you hurt them.
2. Make a list of all the people God brings to your mind whom you have offended and have not sought forgiveness from.
3. If possible, go over your list with a mature Christian and identify the basic offense against each person on that list. If you need to ask God's forgiveness for these offenses, do so now. It's always the right time to get right with God.
4. Rule out those people in whose lives your reappearance now would cause serious difficulty; for example, an old girlfriend who is now married.
5. Contact those individuals by telephone if possible and be brief. Tell the particular person that as you have been looking back over your life, you realize that you failed him in way, naming the offense. Then ask for forgiveness.
6. Make restitution where needed.
7. If certain people have benefited you but you've never shown appreciation, express to them gratitude for what you have gained. If you have a problem with being grateful, start sending thank-you notes to people who have benefited you, sharing how God has used them to build, strengthen, or challenge you.
8. Ask God to take back all ground given to Satan because you have purposed in your heart to contact these people and make things right.