

*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."*

Our Christian witness needs to be full of integrity. If anyone looks or examines our life and truth we represent then they will judge it by their own conscience. Our integrity is part of our clear conscience that will speak powerfully to others.

3. FULL ASSURANCE IN GOD... **Heb 10:22** *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

When our hearts are true to God then it gives us incredible assurance to be able to draw near to God. If we have not been true to God then it is much harder to approach Him until we have come to repentance for our failure.

4. HAVING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE WILL SHAME FALSE ACCUSERS...  
**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.*

5. A CLEAR CONSCIENCE KEEPS US FROM OUR FAITH BEING SHIPWRECKED... **1 Tim 1:19 (CEV)** *You will be faithful and have a clear conscience. Some people have made a mess of their faith because they didn't listen to their consciences.*

6. IT'S A REQUIREMENT FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH...  
**1 Tim 3:9 (CEV)** *And they must have a clear conscience and hold firmly to what God has shown us about our faith.*

7. A CLEAR CONSCIENCE GIVES US CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD... **1 John 3:20-22.** *"For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."*

CAN YOU THINK OF OTHER BENEFITS OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?

**ANSWERS to Rom. 12:16-21:** HARMONY, HUMBLE, VENGEFUL, RIGHT, PEACE, AVENGE, REPAY, FEED, DRINK, BURNING COALS, OVERCOME, GOOD



#### ICE BREAKER:

What is the worst thing that you have ever accidentally broken? Could it be fixed?

Sometimes we accidentally or intentionally break relationships which can be as hard to put back together as a broken piece of China.

The best thing is never to have broken the relationship in the first place. When we practice having a CLEAR CONSCIENCE toward God and man we can avoid the pitfalls and hurts of broken relationships.



#### THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE:

To God, having a clear conscience was of great importance... **Matthew 5:23-24** *"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24. Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."*

**Side Note:** *in those days, a gift or a sacrifice for sin or any of the other ceremonial offerings was a form of repentance, prayer, or worship.*

According to the above scripture, how much importance did God give to being reconciled to another person which is a part of having a clear conscience toward others? \_\_\_\_\_

If we want to be forgiven of God then we must forgive others...

**Matthew 6:14-15** *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

With the above scripture in mind, would bitterness and grudges jeopardize having a clear conscience with God and other people?

The Apostle Paul said that he exercised himself to having a clear conscience...

**Acts 24:16** *"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men."*

What do you think he means by **"exercise myself"** in having a conscience void of offense toward God and men?

#### **Pastor's thoughts:**

Paul is trying to say that he is constantly applying or training himself to do what is right. Why? So that his conscience would never accuse him of doing wrong, and thereby, becoming a reproach to himself.

#### **WAYS TO KEEP A CLEAR CONSCIENCE:**

**Romans 12:16-21 NIV** *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (17) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. (18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (19) Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (20) On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

**By examining the above scriptures, we can find practices that will help us keep a clear conscience toward others:**

- Live in H\_\_\_\_\_, vs 16
- Be H\_\_\_\_\_ instead of PROUD, vs 16
- We are not to repay evil for evil... this means that we are not to be V\_\_\_\_\_, vs 17
- We are to be careful to what is R\_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of others, vs 17.

- Live in P\_\_\_\_\_ with ALL MEN, vs 18
- Don't take revenge on others... Let God A\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_, vs 19
- If our enemy is hungry we are to F\_\_\_\_\_ them, vs 20
- If our enemy is thirsty we give them something to D\_\_\_\_\_, vs 20
- When we treat our enemy with kindness it is like heaping B\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ on our enemy's head... this simply means that our kindness will cause a "burning conviction" on our enemy's conscience. God does the same with us... His kindness brings about conviction and this leads us to repentance... **Romans 2:4 NIV** *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*
- We are to O\_\_\_\_\_ evil with G\_\_\_\_\_, vs 21

**(Answers listed on bottom of page 4)**

Are there other ways to having or keeping a clear conscience with God and man?

#### **How about...**

- First and foremost... treat God with the utmost respect and honor.
- Being careful of other's feelings by not offending with our words.
- Being careful not to hold grudges or retain bitterness.
- Being thankful to others rather than ungrateful
- Dealing with others in a fair manner
- Being respectful of people no matter their position in life.

#### **THE POWER OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE:**

1. NO GUILT... **John 8:9** *And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.*

Our own conscience will approve or disapprove our hearts before God. Just like the men who brought this woman caught in the act of adultery... no one was able to throw the first stone because their own conscience was convicting them.

2. INTEGRITY NO ONE CAN SPEAK AGAINST... Living with clear conscience by not doing evil approves us to other men's conscience... **2 Cor 4:2** *"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in*