

## Perilous Times of no Conscience I

**Conscience** is the faculty by which one distinguishes between morally right and wrong.

**Conscience** urges one to do what he recognizes as right and restrains him from doing what he recognizes as wrong.

**Conscience** excuses us when we do right and accuses us when we do wrong.

**Conscience** passes judgment acts and executes judgment within the soul.

**Conscience** is an awareness of the court within a man's being.

**Conscience** is the ethical sense organ in man.

*KJV 1 Timothy 4:1* Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

<sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**

Seared skin is less sensitive to feelings.

## I

The function of conscience is threefold:

**Obligatory:** It urges man to do what is right and restrains man from doing what he regards as wrong.

**Judicial:** It passes judgment upon man's decisions and acts.

**Executive:** It condemns a man's actions when he is in conflict with his convictions, causing distress, remorse, or shame. It commends man when he acts in conformity with his convictions.

Conscience is innate and universal.

*NKJV Romans 2:14* (for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup>

who show the work of the law written in their hearts, **their conscience** also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

## II

There are several levels and categories of conscience.

- A doubting conscience is a mixture of faith and doubt.

**Romans 14:23** And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: **for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**

- A Dulled, calloused, or dead conscience is inactive and insensitive to the inner voice of right and wrong.

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<sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**

- A Good conscience should be nonnegotiable for sacred leaders.

**Hebrews 13:18** Pray for us: for we trust we have **a good conscience**, in all things willing to live honestly.

## III

Social conscience: This is the merging of individual moral consciousness into a group moral consciousness that results in common or communal conscience. Also called Freedom of conscience

**NKJ 1 Corinthians 10:23** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own, **but each one the other's well-being.** <sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for **conscience' sake;** <sup>26</sup> for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness." <sup>27</sup> If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question **for conscience' sake.** <sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and **for conscience' sake;** for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness." <sup>29</sup> "**Conscience,**" I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's **conscience?** <sup>30</sup> But if I

partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks? <sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> **Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,** <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, **not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.**

Conscience is a gift of God.

- Conscience is a guardian of the world's morality, justice, and decency.
- It is a testimony to the existence of God.
- The bottom line is to have a good conscience.

*KJV* **1 Timothy 1:5** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of **a good conscience**, and of faith unfeigned:

*NLT* **1 Timothy 1:5** The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, **a clear conscience**, and genuine faith.

*Rhema Christian Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, July 8 & 9, 2023  
9:30 a.m.*