

The bible tells us in Gen 1:27, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." In addition to having been created in God's image, God put in our spirit a conscience, in essence a moral compass that evaluates our thoughts and actions based on His righteousness.

The reason Rom 2:14-15 says, "Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right."

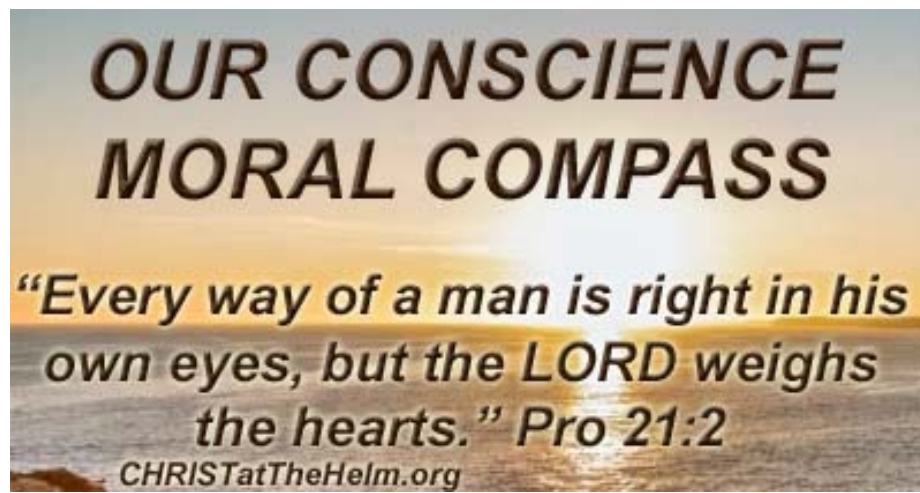
Isaiah 30:21 adds, "Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go, whether to the right or to the left."

Therefore, since God has given us moral standards, what are the forces that can influence our conscience?

Obviously, we're either influenced righteously through the knowledge of God, or wrongly through deception from the world, as Col 2:8 say, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

On which side of the fence do we stand right now?

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How must we guard our conscience, so God’s moral compass in us grows in purity and righteousness?

Ps 139:23-24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

1Cor 4:4: “My conscience is clear, but that doesn’t prove I’m right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.”

How does God influence our conscience?

Pro 20:27: “The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.”

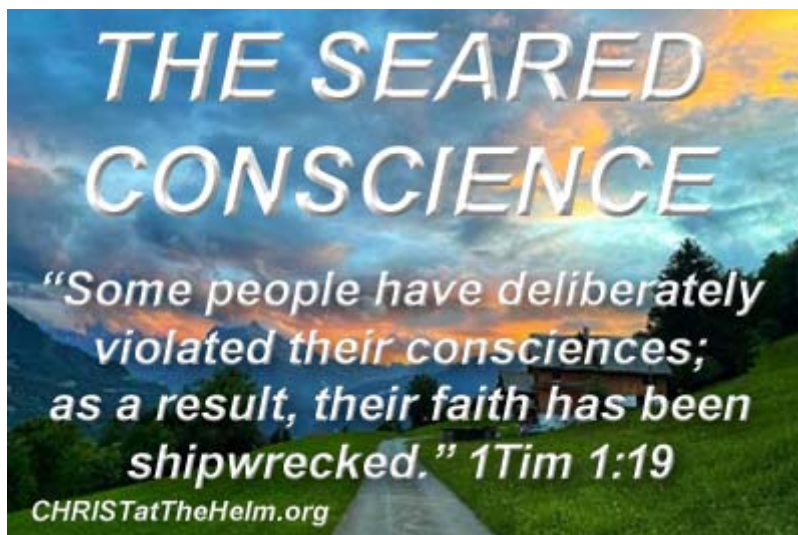
Heb 9:14: “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

What must we guard our conscience against?

Jesus in Mark 7:20-23 said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come; sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Who is influencing our conscience right now... Is it Christ our Savior and Lord through God’s Word, or the world’s lusts and deceptions?

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When we let the world's lusts enter our lives, our conscience can be seared, and therefore our ability to discern between good and evil is affected.

As such, Titus 1:15 states, "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

What happens when we let the world's lusts enter our hearts?

Rom 1:18-19: "But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them."

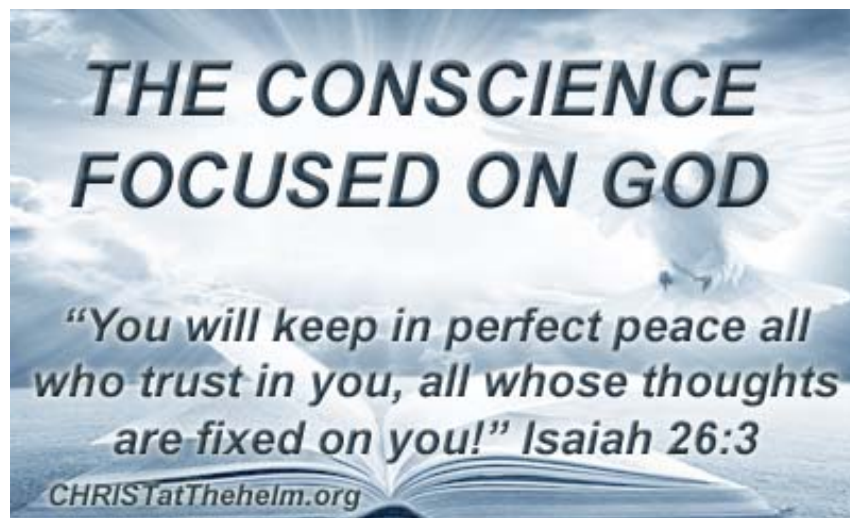
1Cor 8:12: "And so, by sinning against the brothers *and sisters* and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ."

Therefore, entertaining the world's values gradually sears our conscience, and causes us to change God's truth in our spirit for the evil and wickedness of the world.

The reason 1Tim 4:1-2 warns us, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

Will we choose God's Word to rule our hearts, or will we allow the lusts of the world to sear our conscience towards evil?

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Evidently, when God reigns in our hearts, our conscience testifies to us that our actions and attitudes do line up with God’s morals and righteousness as found in His Word.

The reason Paul is quoted as saying in Acts 23:1, “Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

Then in Acts 24:16 he added, “This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”

In Rom 9:1 he affirmed, “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit.”

Here’s how Job (27:6) answered those who challenged him in his faith as he trusted God in severe affliction: “I will maintain my innocence and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live.” Actually, the story ends up proving so.

That’s why Paul could say in 2Tim 1:3, “I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience.”

Finally, Paul asked believers in Heb 13:18, “Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.”

Therefore, if Christ reigns in our hearts, the Holy Spirit will guide us and our conscience will be pure, so as to live to the glory of God.

Are our thoughts fixed on Christ and our conscience at peace right now?

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Evidently, committing our hearts to follow Christ will, without fail, result in the Holy Spirit guiding our hearts and minds through the righteousness of His Word.

How is that accomplished?

Pro 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Pro 4:23: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life."

Rom 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Why?

2Cor 10:3-5: "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

A warning:

1John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Are our thoughts captive and established in Christ through His Word, so we are not fooled by false prophets and teachers?

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