

Renewing Our Conscience

- Ron Stullenbarger -

Our conscience is a window revealing how we view ourselves and, most importantly, our relationship with God. One of the worst effects sin has is distorting our view of ourselves in relation to God. The devil's plan with sin was always to separate us from God, so Jesus came to the earth to destroy the power of sin in our lives. He came so that we might have restored relationship with our heavenly Father. But still sin persists.

Your conscience affects your relationship with God either negatively or positively. It will either lead you to God's throne room or away from His presence. Your heavenly Father's desire is that you would come to see yourself as He does, that your conscience would be wiped clean, and that sin and lies would separate you from Him no longer.

Hebrews 10:19-23 contains an important truth for us today. *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."*

Hebrews tells us that our confidence to come before God is found in the blood of Jesus. Through His death, Jesus paved the way for you to come before the throne of God with confidence and full assurance of faith. God's desire is that your conscience would be *"sprinkled clean"* with the powerful blood of Christ.

Let the truth of God's word further mold your identity until it is aligned with His perspective. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Romans 8:1 says, *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:20 says, *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Thessalonians 5:5 says, *"For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness."* 1 Peter 2:9 says, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."* And Colossians 1:21-22 says, *"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."*

Your heavenly Father sees you as He sees Jesus. Many Christians believe that while they are clothed with Christ, they are still dirty and sinful on the inside. But don't be deceived. At salvation you were made completely new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."*

May your conscience, renewed in Him, lead you freely and consistently to the throne of God.