



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

THREE LIGHTS

(Part 3 of Which Voices Are You Listening To?)

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May 11, 2022

Three lights here refer to traffic lights. Traffic lights is a set of automatically operated colored lights, typically red, yellow, and green, for controlling traffic at road junctions and crosswalks. Let us look at this traffic lights as our "Conscience Test." Conscience is an inner feeling or voice inside our head that tells us how we should feel about a thought or action. It can be described as moral sense of right and wrong. "Conscience Test" can serve as a warning system that will help us distinguish the Godly and ungodly voice.

1. Conscience Test

1.1 Contrary to popular belief, conscience is not always the voice of God in man. It can either be a good or bad kind which can warn or damage the soul. When listening to advice, we have to identify what our conscience is telling us. If our conscience is bothered, it is a warning sign (yellow light), to stop (red light), or continue (green light). We should never violate our conscience because of the crowd/majority; or base our decision on how many seem to agree or accept. If we think it is wrong, we should not do it.

1.2 Moreover, we should be aware that there is danger with the conscience test, the voice of our feelings. Our emotion screams the loudest-good and bad conscience. For this reason, we should go back to the "concrete test" of the Word of God. Our conscience should be illuminated by the light of God for spiritual regeneration. The Bible tells us that we are to test all things using the three tests - character, concrete, but most importantly the conscience test. Self-awareness that judges whether or not an action/plan carried out is in harmony with one's moral standards.

2. There are different kinds of conscience as explained in the Bible

2.1 An **Evil Conscience** (Heb. 10:22; 1 Tim. 4:2; Eph. 4:18) Spiritual blindness is curable only by Jesus. We should pray daily for deliverance.

2.2 A **Weak Conscience** (1 Cor. 8:10) Immature Christians are easily offended over non-essential matters which could be overcome by prayers, Bible study and obedience to God.

2.3 A **Seared Conscience** (1 Tim. 4:1) It is dry and barren due to our sins which harden the heart and we no longer feel guilty.

2.4 A **Convicted Conscience** (Rom. 2:14-15) It gives us knowledge of God's law but does not empower us to choose between good and evil. It may either lead us to be sorry for our sins and repent, or justify our actions without repenting.

2.5 A **Purged Conscience** (Heb. 9:14) It is transformed from that of being evil and convicted so that it rejects evil.

2.6 A **Good Conscience** (1 Pet. 3:16) – It is the opposite of weak conscience which focuses on God's Word and enables us to obey and serve God.

2.7 A **Blameless Conscience** (Acts 24:16) It is spiritual maturity void of any offense before men and especially before God.

2.8 A **Pure Conscience** (1 Tim. 3:9) It is a product of a renewed, converted and purged conscience submitting to God's will.

2.9 A **Cancer Conscience** (1 John 3:6) It is no longer bothered committing sins repeatedly, instead of repenting for the omission. Confession could cleanse this kind of conscience (Heb. 9:14).

Conclusion: Conscience is a gift of God to keep us morally safe, at peace and connected to Him. This ability to know good or evil (morality) is a proof that God exists.

Reflection: What kind of conscience do you have? Is it clean and clear before men and before God?

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Topic: #conscience