

Yes & Amen
2 Cor. 12-24

"God designed the conscience into the very framework of the human soul. The conscience is the ability to sense in your own heart if there is sin there, if there is something wrong there, if there is guilt and shame. That is a great gift from God... The conscience is the soul reflecting on itself... Both the Greek term 'suneidesis' and the English one 'conscience' have the idea of knowing yourself, having an internal sense about the reality of your spiritual condition." MacArthur

- I. Paul is teaching us that our integrity (honesty, truthfulness, honor) remains strong when we conduct ourselves with the **holiness** and **sincerity** that come from God's grace. It is important to the Lord that we "*honor one another above ourselves*" (Rom. 12:10). That is why God gave us a conscience to help us stay true to him and his church.

2 Cor. 2:12-19

1 Jn. 3:21-22

1 Timothy 1:18-19

συνείδησις syneidēsis, the conscience, the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other.

1 Peter 3:15-16 *But in your hearts revere Christ as LORD. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

1 Timothy 4:1-3 *1The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

- II. Our integrity before God, self and others rises to the level of our conviction of the certainty of God's promises toward us. The difference between being fickle in our integrity or standing strongly on the promises of God, which are always "Yes" to all who know him, is determined by the strength of our "Amen."

2 Cor. 20-22

1 Jn. 4:10

Ephesians 1:7

Galatians 2:20

"The stability of his promises that are all settled in Jesus ought to be answered by the stability of our "amen" without any hesitancy or reservation." (Alan Redpath)

- III. God makes us stand firm in Christ, anoints us, puts his seal of ownership on us and puts his Spirit in our hearts, all because we have said "Yes" and "Amen" to all his promises in Christ. Therefore, we are without excuse when we do not conduct ourselves with holiness and sincerity towards one another. It is of utmost importance to the Lord *"that Serve one another in love."* (Galatians 5:13)

2 Cor. 1:21-24

Psalm 16:8

Heb 10:22 *let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*