

The Soul's Warning System, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12-14.
- B. Conscience is an internal entity that accuses or endorses us. (Romans 2)
- C. Conscience is the highest court.
- D. Paul was attacked on a personal, relational and spiritual level by false teachers related to the Corinthian church
- E. Paul appeals to his own conscience to defend himself: he has renounced sin personally, relationally and spiritually.

II. The conscience is the purest point of human accountability. The conscience cannot be fooled.

III. Paul was sensitive toward his conscience. (Acts 23:1, 1 Timothy 3, 2 Timothy 1:3)

- A. Paul wanted to be at peace with himself.
- B. He was at peace with his personal life living unto holiness without secret sins and with godly sincerity. (1 Corinthians 15:10)
- C. Conscience is the highest human court, but it is not divine--Paul was not claiming to be perfect. (1 Corinthians 4)
- D. Paul was at peace with his relational life. His relationship with the Corinthians was honest--he had no ulterior motive other than to communicate truth.
- E. Paul was at peace with his spiritual life.
 - 1. He did not twist the truth of God for his own gain.
 - 2. He looked forward to Jesus' return because he was confident that he would be able to boast in his work for God. (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, 1 Corinthians 4:5)

Application Questions:

1. What is the conscience?

2. Why is the conscience considered "the highest court?"

3. What does it look like to have a clear conscience in all areas of life? What does it feel like? Why is this something to strive for?
