

# Navigating with a Corrupted Compass (Conscience)

Deut. 8:2 *"Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee."*

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>*

Christ created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden (pleasure) offering them: an *Infinite Purpose* (Gen 1:26-28) and an *Intimate Partnership*. (Gen 2:21-25) Satan seduced them to reject God's will and to rely on their own moral compass (Gen. 3:5), *with disastrous consequences!* (Gen. 3:8-24, Ro. 5:12) Even in their rebellion, God offered them a promise of redemption through the sacrifice of the innocent lamb. (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 13:8)

But because of their rebellion, human hearts had been corrupted/infected with evil. (Gen. 4; Jer 17:9) To this day we still rely on own inclination (Pr 3:5) rather than divine inspiration to guide our choices. (Pr 12:15; 21:22) This inevitably leads to this same cycle of Problems (Corruption), Pain (Separation) and Thankfully God's Promise (Redemption)! This cycle is woven throughout scripture and History, because it's part of the Human story. We know that Compasses don't point to true north, but to a fluctuating magnetic north that changes (*based on distance and changing core composition.*)

In much the same way, our Understanding (conscience/ moral "compass") has been Corrupted (Ro 3:10, 23; 5:12) and varies in intensity based on Our distance (from God/truth) as well as Changes in cultural composition. (Values)

**How has our internal GPS (moral compasses/conscience) become corrupted?**

**1. By Satan.** 2 Cor 4:4 *"the god of this world hath blinded (typhlo'ō: obscure, darken) the minds" (no'ema: perception, purpose)* (See also Eph. 2:1-3)

**A. Our "minds" are affected by our perception (*recognition*) and purpose! (*reason*)**

1) He seeks to obscure our Perception (*understanding*) so as to divert us from our Purpose! (*Rev. 4:11*)

**B. Our minds are influenced by our conscience.**

"Conscience" (synei'dēsis) means co-perception! (**from syn {with} and eido {to know, perceive}**)

1) We're created to "see" with God! (Ps 36:9; 1 Jn 1:5-7)

2) Satan seeks to obscure the truth by getting us to "see" (perceive, consider) with him!

a) After Eve conversed with Satan, (and sin) *she "saw" the tree differently!* Gen. 3:6

b) After Eve conversed with Satan, (and sin), *she "saw" Adam (and herself) differently!*

c) After Eve conversed with Satan (and sin), *They saw God differently!* Vs 8-10

**2. By Self (interest/perspective)** Jer. 17:9 *"The heart (labe: understanding) is deceitful ('āqōb': crooked, twisted) above all things, and desperately wicked:" ('ānash': incurably sick)*

**A. This was Satan's "poisoned" promise.** Gen. 3:6 *"Ye shall be as gods, knowing (yada') good and evil."*

1) "Yada" has many subtle meanings and uses.

a) It's translated: "Know or Knowledge" 750x, "perceive" 18x; "acquaintance" 6x; "declare, show, tell, or teach" 37x

b) Not just awareness or understanding, but "declaring" (deciding) what's good and/or evil.

**B. This "poison promise" of power corrupted us.** Jer. 17:9 *"The heart (labe: understanding) is deceitful ('āqōb': crooked, twisted) above all things, and desperately wicked:" ('ānash': incurably sick)*

1) This "infection" affects our perception and choices. (Pr 21:2; Isaiah 53:6)

Eph 4:17-19 *"walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity {mataios: emptiness/idol} of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, (skotizo: obscured) being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness (Pō'rōsis: callousness, hardness) of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, ((asel'geia: wantonness) to work all uncleanness with greediness." (pleonexia'a: covetousness)* See also Romans 1:18-32

### 3. By Sin:

A. "Sin" in the New Testament (**hamartia**) means:

1) To offend. (**skandalizo: to hurt/ snare**) Who do we offend by our sin?

a) Others. Mt. 18:15-22

b) Ourselves Mt 18:23-25 34 *"deliver him to the tormentors..."* See also Romans 6:14-24

c) God! Eph. 4:30 *"grieve not (lype'ō: distress, make sorrowful) the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed (sphragizō: stamped for security/preservation) unto the day of redemption."*

2) To Trespass: Mk 11:25; Mt 18:15; 35

a) Greek: (**parap'tōma: to deviate, fall**) From who? What?

b) English: Commit an injury to the person, property, or rights; especially to enter onto another's land wrongfully. To Infringe on the privacy, time, or attention of another. To commit an offense or a sin; transgress or err.

When we trespass whose "land" are we now on? Whose "attention" are we now getting?

B. Sin(Hamartia) comes from hamartano which means *"to miss the mark (skopos: God's Goal {Phil. 3:14}) and so not share the prize" (brebei'on: award/reward)*

1) God has a "mark" (purpose/goal) for us. (Eccl. 3:9; Jer 29:11; 1 Cor 3:9; Rev 4:11)

Phil 3:14 *"I press toward the mark (skopos: goal) ...of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"*

2) God has a "Prize" for each of us. Phil. 3:14 *"I press toward the mark for the prize (brabeion: umpire) of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (See also Mt. 25:21,23, 34; John 14:2)

#### Conclusion:

Satan uses our own Selfishness (Jm 1:12-16) to tempt us to sin, resulting in our:

- Offending/grieving God. Eph. 4:30; Pr 6:16-19
- Obscuring our mind/conscience. 1 Tim. 1:5; Pr 4:19
- Drifting further from God. Jm 1:16
- Forfeiting the Prize/Peace of God. Is 48:22; 2 Tim 4:1-10

#### Application: Has a map or GPS ever misled you?

1) How do you determine the accuracy of any compass, map, or GPS?

*You must compare and calibrate it to a reliable standard.*

2) How do you know if your "moral compass" (GPS) is reliable

- **Honest Self Examination:** 1 Cor 11:28-31 *"let a man examine himself, ...(dokimazo: test, discern) 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge (diakrino: clearly discern) ourselves, we should not be judged". (Krino: questioned)*

In light of Jer. 17:9, what standard do you use to accurately "judge" yourself?

- **Humble God Examination:** 1 Cor 11:32 *"But when we are judged, (krino: cross examined) we are chastened (paideu'ō: disciplined) of the Lord, that we should not be condemned (Katakrino: sentenced) with the world."*

Ps. 139:23-24 *"Search me, (hāqar': examine intimately) O God and know my heart: Try me (bāhan': test, prove, investigate), and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked ('ōseb: idol way (derek: manner) in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (See also Ps. 16:11)*

**When's the last time you calibrated your Conscience?**