

The Problem with a Corrupted Conscience Pt 2

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

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb 4th

Throughout history there's a cyclical theme of Rebellion → Reaction (consequences) and eventually God's offer of Redemption. We're introduced to this cycle in Genesis 3 and it finds it's final conclusion in Revelation 20. In spite of this cycle being played out in every age and in every human heart, why do we repeatedly fall for Satan's lies and temptations? (Romans 1:28-32)

This cycle is woven throughout human history, because the human heart/soul (aka: Moral Compass) has been corrupted (Ro. 7:21-23) by:

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 (perception, recognition) influence our purpose! (reason, choices, rational)

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

B. Our Choices affect our Conscience (and vice versa!)

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

1) After spending time listening to Satan, they saw: *The tree (good and evil) differently! Gen. 3:6 Each other differently! Gen. 3:7,8; 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. Acting on Satan's poison promise 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."* (See Lk 19:41-44)

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?
(Jer. 17:10; Ps. 119:9-11)

- Humble "other" examination: Heb 3:12,13; 10:23-25 *"Let us consider one another To provoke unto love and good works"*
- 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?