

DATING – 2, The Imperative of a Clear Conscience and a good reputation, 2 pgs

The following are just a sampling of the passages that stress the importance of having and maintaining a clear conscience: (**Acts 24:16; 2 Cor.1:12**)

A sensitive conscience is the mark of a mature Christian. Heb.5:13-14

Paul warned Timothy that next to his faith, a clear conscience was *his most essential weapon to war against the enemy of his soul. 1 Tim. 1:18-19*, Phillips

When you offend or hurt another, not only does **your conscience** bother you, but you can sense something is wrong by their attitude and the way they act toward you [*ie, you receive feedback from these 2 sources at least*]. The relationship has been damaged. Crying is a child's way of clearing his conscience. It is a much more complex undertaking for us to set things right with those we have offended as we become older.

1 Cor.10:

*³¹Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the assembly of God [*that's everyone*]; ³³even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved.*

³We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; 2 Cor.6:3, NABRE

How seriously does God regard the hurt and damage we do to others? _____

Lk.17:1-3

Jesus said to his disciples, Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! ²It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³Be on your guard!

What priority does God assign to making things right with those you have hurt or whose walk of faith you have interfered with? _____

Does this include someone you are dating? _____

Mt.5:23-26

*²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser [*the one with whom you have not been reconciled*] while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison ... you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.*

Purity refers to a singleness of devotion. It is unmixed or uncontaminated with anything that would dilute it or taint it. Purity is therefore **the source of moral excellence or strength (virtue).**

2 Tim.2:19-22

¹⁹But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: The LORD knows those who are his, and All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil ... ²¹If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. ²²**Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts.** [Don't base relationships on physical attraction] Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. ⁶We show we are servants of God by our pure lives, our understanding, patience, and kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by true love, ⁷by speaking the truth, and by God's power. We use our right living to defend ourselves against everything, **2 Cor.6:6-7**, NCV

Analyze the following verses: what dirties or corrupts us?

Jas.1:27

²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2 Pt.3:11-14

¹¹Since [the whole physical creation] is thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ... ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.