

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT -OBEYING THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

(Wellsford C.F. - 9/4/89 - EKB)

1. We all have a **conscience** and it plays an important role in our lives, *1Tim 1:5*.
2. The conscience is a **part of our spirit** and witnesses with the Holy Spirit, *Rom 9:1, Rom 8:16, Rom 2:14,15*.
3. The inward voice of conscience in our spirit/heart tells us whether or not what we plan to do is **according to what we believe to be God's will**. As our understanding of God's Word and His Will is renewed by the Word of God, *Rom 12:2*, what we understand and believe to be God's will may change, and so our conscience will change.
4. If we think to take something that does not belong to us, or that we do not have a right to, our **conscience** tells us not to do it. If we see a person in need and we are in a position to be able to help, our conscience tells us to give assistance.
5. **Consciences** vary according to upbringing and what has been taught, *Rom 14:1-23*. Consciences may vary about foods, *v1-3*, about keeping special days, *v5-6*, various drinks *v21*. Also read *1Cor 8:1-13, 10:23-33*.
6. Paul had been **convinced by the Lord Jesus** that he was able to eat all foods, *Rom 14:14, 1Tim 4:3-5*. However others whose consciences were "weak" could eat only vegetables. *Rom 14:1,2, 1Cor 8:7,9-13, 10:28,29*. (In Paul's day meat was often killed first as an offering to an idol before being sold at the market. That did not worry Paul because he sanctified it by the Word and Prayer, *1Tim 4:3-5*.)
7. The central point is **the importance of each one obeying his conscience**, *Rom 14:14,20-23*. To go against our conscience is to act against what we believe to be God's Will. This is "evil," *v20*, brings condemnation, *v23*, and is sin, *v23*.
8. We must **respect the consciences of other people** when they differ from ours. We must refrain from doing anything that would lead another to act against his conscience, *Rom 14:15,16,20-23*. To love our brother is to seek his highest good, *1Cor 8:9-13, 1Cor 10:28*.
9. Sometimes when **our conscience** says, "No!" we start reasoning it out to try and "prove" to ourselves why it would be all right to go ahead. This brings confusion, condemnation and we need to repent and obey the inward voice. It is true to tell us what we really believe in our heart.
10. The unbeliever or believer who goes against his conscience will harden or deaden it, *1Tim 4:2, Titus 1:15*. The **conscience is a God given** faithful guide to tell us if what we intend to do is what we believe to be God's will. **In all we do, we need to act believing that we are obeying the will of the Lord.**

11. This is walking in the Spirit, **walking in the light**, keeping a **clear conscience** before God and man *Ac 24:16, 2Tim 1:3, 1Tim 1:5,19, 1Tim 3:9*. “Blamelessness,” (not “faultlessness”), is serving God faithfully with a clear conscience at all times. *1Thes 5:23,24, 2Pet 3:14, 1Thes 3:13*.
12. **God looks on the heart**, on our motives, more than on our actions, *1Sam 16:7*.
13. *Heb 9:9,14, 10:22*. The Old Testament sacrifices could not cleanse the conscience but the Blood of Jesus does. **Praise our God!**