

Matthew 5:24,

"Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first

BE RECONCILED TO THY BROTHER,

and then come and offer thy gift."

1 Timothy 1:5, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"

Hebrews 13:18, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Acts 24:16, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men."

Matthew 18:15, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."

Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

A Clear Conscience - The ability to honestly say that there is no one on this earth that I have ever wronged, hurt, or offended in any way, and have not gone back and attempted to make it right.

I. The Consequences Of Not Forgiving

1. It Leads To Physical Destruction.

Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

2. It Paralyzes Us In Emotional Depression.

3. It Imprisons Us In A Mental Dungeon.

4. It Causes Us To Live In Spiritual Defeat.

1 John 4:20, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

5. It Causes Us To Doubt Our Salvation.

Matthew 6:15, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Romans 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

6. It Puts A Stumbling Block Before Weaker Christians And The Watching World.

1 Corinthians 8:9, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

7. It Brings A Curse Upon The Family.

Numbers 14:18, "The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

II. The Characteristics Of A Person With An Unclear Conscience

1. Nervousness

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

2. No Power In Witnessing

3. Judgmental Attitudes

Romans 14:10, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

4. An Inability To Concentrate

5. A Small Circle Of Friends

6. No Joy

7. Depression And Fatigue

Proverbs 15:13, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

8. Self-Condernation

9. Inordinate Fears

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

10. Always Defensive

Proverbs 21:2, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

III. Excuses Of Satan Not To Clear The Conscious

1. It Happened A Long Time Ago.

Acts 24:16, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men."

2. They Moved Away

3. It Was So Small

4. I'm Too Sensitive

5. Nobody Is Perfect

6. It Involves Money

7. They Will Not Understand

8. I'll Do It Later

IV. Guidelines For Solving Conflicts

1. List Those With Whom You Have Conflict

2. List Your Offenses

3. List Their Offenses

4. Make Restitution

The scope of your confession should only be as large as the scope of your transgression.

Avoid shameful details

Ephesians 5:12, "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

Go to the one offended

Romans 5:10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."