

## Is the conscience a safe guide?

Many people state that in order to do what is right, you just need to listen to your conscience and you will never go wrong.

1. What is the most common understanding of listening to one's conscience?

Deuteronomy **12:8**

Judges 17:6; 21:25

Proverbs **21:2**

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When most people talk about following or listening to one's own conscience, they are referring to doing what they believe to be right. It is their own feelings and own impressions of that which is right, wrong, true, or false that informs the decisions that they make. In essence, they trust in themselves and in their own understanding of things.

2. Can a person's conscience be wrong?

Proverbs 28:26

Jeremiah **9:13-14**

Proverbs 12:15

2 Corinthians **10:12-13**

Jeremiah **44:16-23**

Luke **18:18-23**

1 Samuel **13:10-14**

Joshua 9:11-16

1 Timothy **4:1-3**

Titus **1:15-16**

The scriptures have numerous examples of people following their conscience and doing what they believed to be right in their own mind. In other words they were following their consciences. Joshua allowed the Gibeonites to remain safely in the land because they did not receive instruction and guidance from God. Saul offered up a sacrifice unto God because he felt it was the right thing to do. These are just some cases where people followed their own conscience and the results caused great harm. Furthermore, the identification of what is right and wrong must come from God because only God is truly good and does good. It is foolish to follow your own heart and mind in determining what is right and wrong.

3. What does it truly take to have a reliable conscience?

John **8:6-10**

2 Corinthians **10:3-5**

Romans **12:1-2**

1 John 5:3

In order to have a reliable conscience, it is necessary to take every thought and action and conform them to be in agreement with the Word of God so that our personal definition of right and wrong will be in agreement with God's definition of right and wrong.

4. If I cannot trust in my own conscience then what can I trust in order to know what is right and wrong?

Proverbs **3:5-6**

John 17:17

I can always trust in the Word of God. It alone is trustworthy and reliable for what is the definition of right and wrong.