

THE DEVIL AND THE CONSCIENCE

I.)CONSCIENCE

A.)THE WORD DOES NOT APPEAR IN O.T. BUT THE IDEA IS WELL KNOWN AND EXPRESS- ED IN THE TERM HEART

1.)It appears in the very dawn of human history
as a sense of guilt with Adam & Eve after
the fall.

2.)NIV uses word conscience referring to
King Abimelech.

GEN 20:5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands." (NIV)

6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. (NIV)

3.)NIV uses "conscience" in Job.

("heart" KJV)

JOB 27:6 I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live. (NIV)

4.)NIV uses conscience referring Abigail's warn-ing to David.

1SA 25:31 my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the Lord has brought my master success, remember your servant." (NIV)

5.)We read of David, that his heart smote him.

2SA 24:10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. (KJV)

SEE COMMENTS ELWELL EVANGELICAL DICTIONARY

B.)IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

VINE'S NEW TESTAMENT DICTIONARY

1.)A sense of guiltiness before God.

(Hebrews 10:1-4 NIV)

(1) The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. (2) If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

(should have had no more conscience of sins...KJV ASV NKJ)

(3) But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, (4) because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

2.)That process of thought that distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad, and so prompting to do the former, and avoid the latter

(John 8:7-9 NKJ)

(7) So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." (8) And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. (9) Then those who heard {it}, being convicted by {their} conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest {even} to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

(Romans 2:14-15 NIV)

(14) (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, (15) since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

(Romans 9:1)

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, (KJV)

(2Corinthians 1:12)

For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. (KJV)

3.)There may be a conscience not strong enough to distinguish clearly between the lawful and the unlawful.

(1Corinthians 8:7-12 NIV)

(7) But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. (8) But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. (9) Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to

the weak. (10) For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? (11) So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. (12) When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

This is a conscience that needs to be trained.

HEB 5:14

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, {that is,} those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (NKJ)

4.)Just because the conscience does not think something is wrong, does not make it right.

2TI 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, how unceasing is my remembrance of thee in my supplications, night and day (ASV)

ACT 23:1

And Paul, looking stedfastly on the council, said, Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day. (ASV)

(Acts 26:9-11 NIV)

(9) "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. (10) And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. (11) Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

A man must know the truth first, then obey the truth. The two don't automatically follow each other.

The Jew had zeal but no knowledge

ROM 10:2

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (NKJ)

Some may know the truth but do nothing.

JAM 2:17

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (NKJ)

When a man knows the truth and obeys it..

1TI 1:5

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (NIV)

1TI 1:18

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have

shipwrecked their faith. (NIV)

1TI 3:9

They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. (NIV)

HEB 13:18

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. (NIV)

1PE 3:16

keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (NIV)

5.)Acting a certain way because conscience requires it.

ACT 24:16

"This {being} so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. (NKJ)

ROM 13:5

Wherefore {ye} must needs be subject, (to worldly rulers, v.1) not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. (KJV)

6.)So as not to cause scruples in the conscience of another.

(1Corinthians 10:28-29 NIV)

(28) But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake - (29) the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?

2CO 4:2

But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (NKJ)

7.)Not calling a thing into question unnecessarily as if conscience demanded it

(1Corinthians 10:25-27 NIV)

(25) Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, (26) for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." (27) If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.

C.)WHAT CHRIST DID FOR THE CONSCIENCE

1.)FULFILLED THE OLD LAW

(Hebrews 9:9-10 NIV)

(9) This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the □conscience of the worshiper. (10) They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings - external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

(Hebrews 10:1-2 NIV)

(1) The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities

themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. (2) If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

2.)BY CLEANSING OUR SINS

(Hebrews 9:13-14 NIV)

(13) The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. (14) How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

HEB 10:22

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (NIV)

3.)HE WASHED OUR SINS

REV 1:5

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (NKJ)

4.)SO WE COULD WASH OUR SINS

ACT 22:16

'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (NKJ)

REV 7:14

And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (NKJ)

5.)calling on the name of the Lord Rom 10

Paul called on the name of the Lord Act 22:16

1PE 3:21

The like figure whereunto {even} baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

ASV ("but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God")

II.)LUST

A.)MAN'S NATURAL BODILY DESIRES

1.)MAN'S SINFUL NATURE IS HIS NATURAL TENDENCY

TO GRATIFY THE BODY'S DESIRES.

(Romans 13:13-14 NIV)

(13) Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. (14) Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

EPH 2:3

among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (NKJ)

2.)IN AND OF THEMSELVES ARE NOT HARMFUL

a.)PAUL SAYS ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL

(1Corinthians 6:9-13 NKJ)

(9) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (12) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (13) Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body {is} not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

3.)IF MAN DOES NOT LIMIT DESIRES, DETRIMENTAL TO

SELF AND OTHERS.

a.)It is the undisciplined gratification that causes man to misuse himself and his fellow man.

1CO 6:9 abusers of themselves with mankind, (KJV)

b.)Being obsessed with gratification of the desires of the body.

1CO 7:31

those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. (NIV)

4.)ONLY WAY MAN CAN KNOW TO DISCIPLINE IS THROUGH GOD'S INSTRUCTION

ROM 7:7

What shall we say then? {Is} the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." (NKJ)

B.)THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT ARE NOT THE SAME.

(Galatians 5:16-17 ASV)

(16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (17)

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; that ye may not do the things that ye would.

1.)THE SPIRIT SHOULD CONTROL THE BODY.

GAL 5:24

And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof. (ASV)

C.)THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH THE FLESHLY GRATIFICATION IS DECEITFUL

EPH 4:22

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (NIV)

1.We should flee from undisciplined desire.

2 TI 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (NIV)

2.)If you don't control your desires, they will control you.

2TI 3:6

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, gullible, loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, (NKJ)

3.)BEWARE! It is a dangerous situation when your body controls you.

James says all evil begins with uncontrolled desire.

(James 1:14-15 NKJ)

(14) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (15) Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.

When man sinks down to a state of existence

where he is more concerned about gratifying

his desires than in the welfare of his fel-

low man...look what happens.

(James 4:1-2 NKJ)

(1) Where do wars and fights {come} from among you? Do {they} not {come} from your {desires for} pleasure that war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

III.)TEMPTATION, WHO TEMPTS

A.)GOD?

1.)God tempts (proves)

GEN 22:1

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, {here} I {am}. (KJV)

GEN 22:1

And it came to pass after these things, that God did prove Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham. And he said, Here am I. (ASV)

2.)God does not solicit men to do evil

MAT 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' (NIV)

3.)God provides us with an escape.

MAT 4:1-13

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. (NIV)

1CO 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)

B.)SATAN?

1.)He tempted Christ.

MAT 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. (NIV)

2.)He will tempt you.

MAT 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' (NIV)

1TH 3:5

For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain. (NKJ)

3.)He will take advantage of you when you are in a venerable position.

1CO 7:5

Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (NIV)

C.)MAN

1.)Man has a part to play in this temptation problem.

MAT 26:41

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but

the body is weak." (NIV)

We must realize that we are temptable!

2.)God has given us protection from temptation.

1CO 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)

3.)There are two parts to this statement.

a.)God will limit how much pressure the Devil can bring to bear upon you.

b.)You must realize that you are no different than other men.

1CO 10:6

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. (ASV)

GAL 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who {are} spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (NKJ)

4.)But man can undo what God has done.

MAR 4:19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. (NIV)

LUK 8:13

And those on the rock {are} they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. (ASV)

5.)We must understand how the Devil works against us.

2CO 2:11

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. (NKJ)

EPH 6:11

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (NIV)

1TI 3:7

Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (NKJ)

(2Timothy 2:24-26 NKJ)

(24) And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (25) in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, (26) and {that} they may

come to their senses {and escape} the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to {do} his will.

6.)We are warned to discipline ourselves,keeping ourselves in control.

(Titus 2:11-13 NIV)

(11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to □ all men. (12) It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (13) while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

(2Peter 1:2-4 NKJ)

(2) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, (3) as His divine power has given to us all things that {pertain} to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (4) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption {that is} in the world through lust.

6.Satan will try us through our lusts.

(James 1:13-16 NIV)

(13) When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (14) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (16) Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

7.)Yielding to desire instead of exercising discipline lowers our resistance.

(1Timothy 6:7-10 NIV)

(7) For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. (8) But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. (9) People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

7.)Men who discipline themselves and seek after truth shall be protected by the Lord's promise.

(Hebrews 2:17-18 NKJ)

(17) Therefore, in all things He had to be made like {His} brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things {pertaining} to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

2PE 2:9

{then} the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, (NKJ)

He will use them in his purpose.

(2Timothy 2:20-22 NIV)

(20) In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. (21) If a man cleanses

himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (22) Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

8.)Those who do not will allow their own lust to carry them away.

(2Timothy 4:3-4 NKJ)

(3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, {because} they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn {their} ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

PSA 81:12

So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: to follow their own devices. (NIV)

ROM 1:28

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. (NIV)

9.)But if we will use God's tools we can escape the corruption □
that is in the world.

(1John 2:14-17 NIV)

(14) I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (15) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. (17) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.