

Delight in the Lord - Study 7

Honesty and A Clear Conscience

Live an Honest Life

Proverbs 11:3

- Note how strong this language is when it comes to dishonesty

Colossians 3:5-11

The Passion Translation puts it this way

“9 ... **Lay aside your old Adam-self with its masquerade and disguise.**

10 For you have acquired new creation life which is continually being renewed into the likeness of the One who created you; **giving you the full revelation of God.**”

Colossians 3:9-10

Here are some areas to consider when thinking about honesty.

- Honest in your actions
- Honest and open before yourself and God about what is in your heart.
- Honest and open towards others.
- Honest in your speech. (James 1:26, Proverbs 12:22)
- We are to be people of integrity. (2 Corinthians 8:20-22)
- Honesty keeps us safe. (Proverbs 28:18)

Keep Your Conscience Clear

1 John 3:18-19 (AMP)

“Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love [merely in theory] with word or with tongue [giving lip service to compassion], **but in action and in truth** [in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words]. By this we will know [without any doubt] that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart and **quiet our conscience before Him**”

- Our conscience informs us when we are walking the path or when we stray from it.
- Acting out in love quiets our conscience before God! It is the doing that makes all the difference.

1 John 3:18-24 (MSG)

“My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love. This is the only way we’ll know we’re living truly, living in God’s reality. It’s also the way to **shut down**

debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and **we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God!** We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because **we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him.** Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. **As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us.** And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us."

- Sometimes the things that our conscience condemns us for actually have some substance. Once again practicing love overcomes even this.
- What does it mean to practice love? What does this look like in your everyday life?
- Notice the connection here with pleasing God, keeping His commands and living in Him.
- What is the cost of disobedience?

The Holy Spirit Teaches Us What is True

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NLT)

"As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. **My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right.** It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide."

- A clear conscience does not actually prove you are right. God will examine you in this.
- God is not out to prove you wrong but to lead you in the way of truth. He is trustworthy. I think this scripture makes it clear that we can not even trust in our conscience to lead us. Only God is trustworthy.

1 John 2:26-28 (NLT)

"I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. **But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true.** For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. **And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.**"

- When our conscience is clear and we are walking in obedience we come bolding before the throne of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Jesus through His Spirit has made this possible for us.