



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 42:**  
**“Should My Conscience be My Guide?”**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 23:11, 24:16 and selected passages**

1. How would you define “conscience?” Do you believe that every person has a conscience (cf. *Romans 2:14-15*)? Why or why not? Is a person’s conscience different from their “gut instinct?” Why or why not?
  
2. How could Paul say that he had a good and blameless clean before God (*Acts 23:1*) and men (*Acts 24:16*)? What did he mean? How should his words (and life) serve as an example for us to follow (*2 Corinthians 1:12*; *1 Peter 3:15-16*)?
  
3. What is the relationship between a person’s conscience and the Holy Spirit? Are they the same or distinct? Does the Spirit convict us? Does our conscience? Do both? How can we ensure that we are being transformed by the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:25*; *Romans 12:2*)?
  
4. How would you define a “good” or “clear” conscience (*1 Timothy 1:5, 18-19; 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3*)? Why is this so important to maintain? Would you describe your conscience as good/clear before God and man right now?

5. How would you describe a “seared” conscience (*1 Timothy 4:1-2; Ephesians 4:18-19*)? How is it different from a “defiled” conscience (*Titus 1:5*)? Are you making any choices that are contributing to your conscience being “seared” or even “defiled” (*Colossians 3:1-3*)?
  
6. Do you ever struggle with having a “weak” conscience that is immature or oversensitive (*1 Corinthians 8:11-12*)? Are you causing someone else who is “weak” to stumble on account of your behavior (*Romans 14:22-23; 1 Corinthians 8:9-10, 13*)?
  
7. In light of these truths, how do you need to cleanse your conscience? What do you need to confess to God or to another? Where do you need to extend forgiveness (*Matthew 11:25*)? Do you really believe that you are spiritually “clean” because of the work of Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:19-23*)?

**Memory Verse:**

**“In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.”**  
**(Acts 24:16, NIV)**