A large, faint background image of a tree with its roots growing from an open book. The tree has green leaves and a brown trunk. The book is open, showing its pages. The entire scene is set against a light, hazy background.

Bringing the Bible to Life

Biblical Counseling Workshops

Guilt & Repentance Part 1

Track V.9

Kent Kloter

Pastor of Biblical Counseling

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Results of Guilt

Gen. 3:7-19

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Shame, embarrassment, disgrace

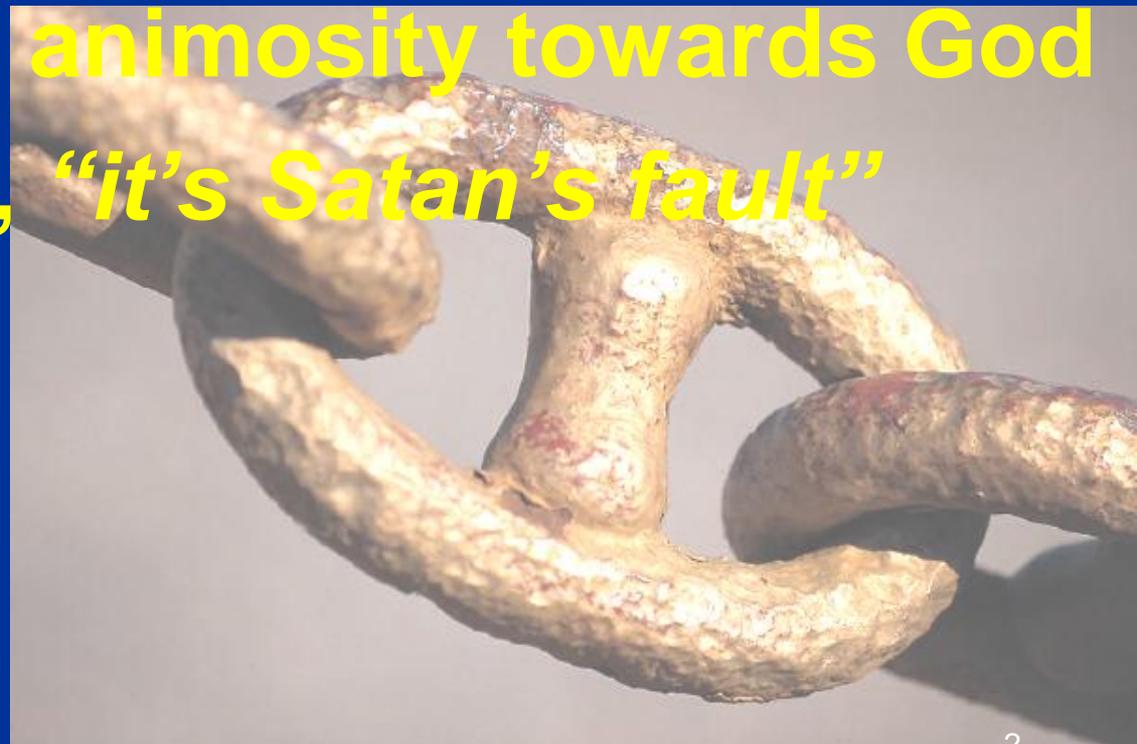
Fear, anxiety, condemnation, isolation

Blame-shifting, animosity towards God

Irresponsibility, *“it’s Satan’s fault”*

Punishment

Guilt binds...



Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Defining Guilt

What guilt is not

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

“Guilt is an affective state in which one experiences conflict at having done something one believes one should not have done”

The world defines guilt by feelings

Guilt
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What is Guilt?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Guilt is a FACT – a legal position

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

(Romans 3:19 ESV)

Guilt is NOT 1st & primarily a feeling

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Guilt, A Position of Culpability

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

A state of meriting blame or condemnation” -

Responsible; Liable for punishment; At fault;
In- the-wrong; Accountable; To-blame

**But he who doubts is condemned if he eats,
because his eating is not from faith; and
whatever is not from faith is sin. Rom 14:23**

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Guilt is Culpability for Sin

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

All wrongdoing is sin, (1 John 5:17 ESV)

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (1 Jn 3:4 ESV)

For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (Romans 4:15 ESV)

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3 ESV)

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What is Sin?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature. Grudem

“The nature of sin is selfishness” isn't a biblical definition of sin.

Not all self-interest is sinful...seeking salvation - avoiding God's wrath, consequences of sin, seeking God's blessing, sanctification, etc.

God seeks His own glory.

Sin brings Guilt & Culpability

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Four Ways to Sin

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Culpability for sin in four dimensions

Omission
(Neglecting the law)

Commission
(Breaking the law)

Presumptuous
(Willful / Rebellious)

I know, but I don't want to obey

I know I shouldn't, but I break God's law

Ignorant
(Not knowing the law)

Don't know;
don't obey

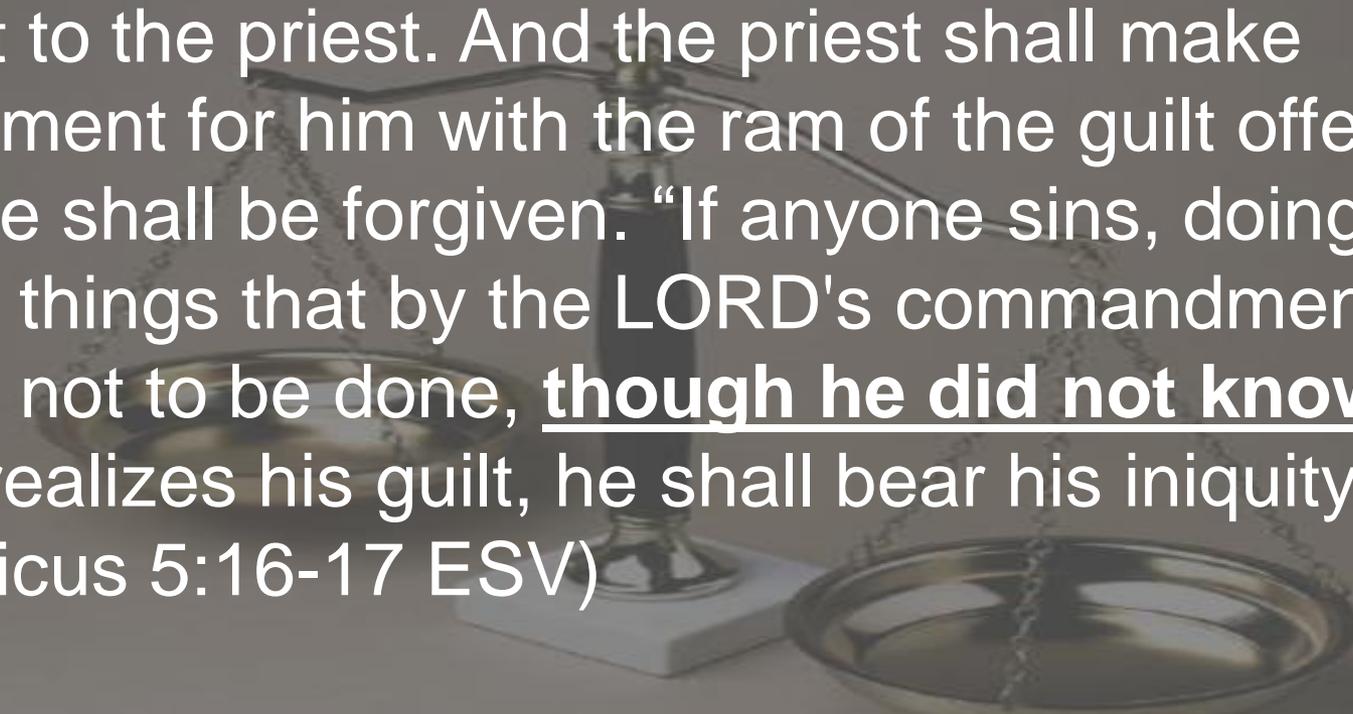
Don't know;
Break God's law

	Omiss.	Comm.
Pre-sumption		
Ignorance		

Culpability for Sins of Ignorance

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

He shall also make restitution for what he has done amiss in the holy thing and shall add a fifth to it and give it to the priest. And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and he shall be forgiven. “If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt, he shall bear his iniquity. (Leviticus 5:16-17 ESV)



	Omiss.	Comm.
Pre- sumption		
Ignorance		

Sins of Omission Bring Culpability

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. Rom 14:23

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6 ESV)

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Discerning Guilt

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

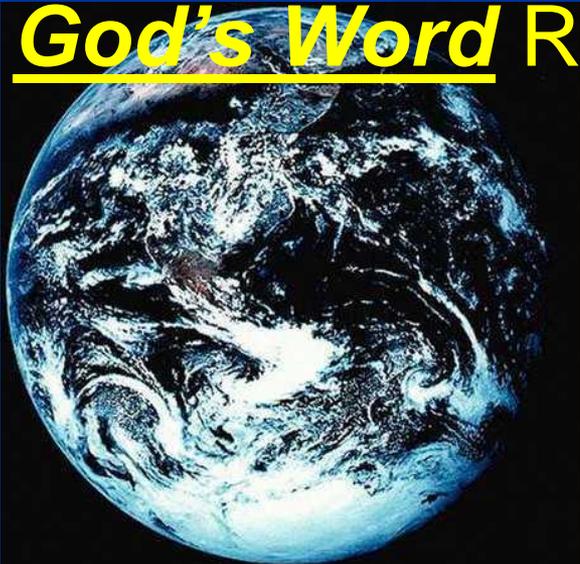


Creation Rom.1:19-21



Conscience Rom.2:15

God's Word Rom. 3:19



Holy Spirit

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Conscience

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Greek means “co-perception”, i.e.. “con” (meaning “together”) and “science” (meaning “to know”). An innate ability for the heart to **“know together” with an objective standard.** The conscience is a “guilt-meter” comparing morality (behaviors) to ethic-standards. *“Internal judgment of right and wrong; ...which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them.*

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

Guilt

Repentance

Forgiveness

How Does the Conscience Work?

Why Guilt?

Defining Guilt

Discerning Guilt

Dealing with Guilt

- Designed as an indicator of danger
- Like pain is to the body
- Informs based on one's belief-system
- Must be trained biblically
- Must be cleared before intimacy with God
- Must be cleared before intimacy with others

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

How Does the Conscience Work?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

God designed the conscience to plead with us to do what we believe is good and right and warn us to stay away from what we believe is wrong. *“The conscience stands over us, addressing us with an absoluteness of authority which we did not give it and which we cannot take from it.”*

They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them (Romans 2:15 ESV)

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Forgiveness

How Does the Conscience Work?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

“that process of thought which 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. Vine's Expository Dictionary

*“Cowardice asks the question, ‘Is it safe?’
Expedience asks the question, ‘Is it political?’
Vanity asks, ‘Is it popular?’
But conscience asks, ‘Is it right?’”*

Author unknown, quoted in *The New Dictionary of Thoughts*, Standard Book Company

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Forgiveness

How Does the Conscience Work?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

- 1) Defines an objective standard, i.e. the mountain (major premise)
- 2) Measures oneself against that standard, i.e. the flight-path (minor premise)
- 3) Conclude if the standard was kept or violated. (i.e. we're on collision-course and therefore "guilty" before God)

(i.e. we're not on collision-course and therefore "not guilty before God")

Guilt
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Forgiveness

How Does the Conscience Work?

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

A properly-functioning conscience re: Original Sin:

- 1) **Standard** - All men are sinners and are condemned to Hell (Rom.6:23)
- 2) **Measure** - I am a sinner
- 3) **Conclusion** Guilty; I therefore am going to Hell

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A Properly Functioning Conscience

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Everyone has the ability to make moral self-assessments. The right operation of the conscience is *“Man’s judgment of himself according to God’s judgment of him”*.

John Dykstra Eusden

Motivates confession of sins, moves to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, e.g. Prodigal Son

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)

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A Properly Functioning Conscience

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
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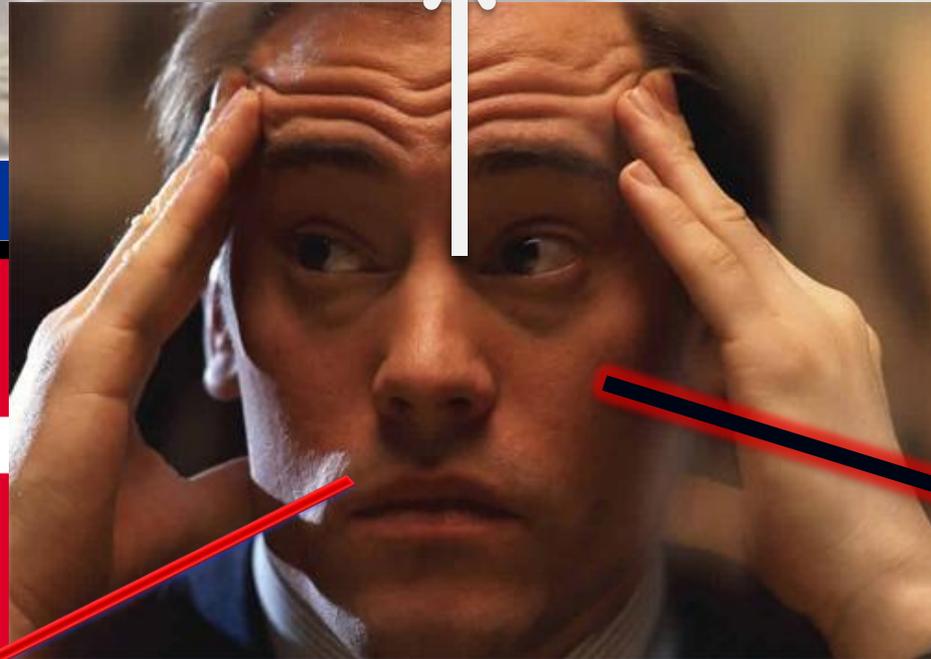
produces one of the following:

- 1) an accurate sense of guilt; an awareness of a conflict with the Law-giver **“Conscious-Guilt”**
- 2) A **“Clear conscious”** (a barrier-free relationship with the Law-giver).

But when they [Pharisees] heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. (John 8:9 ESV)

(see also Gen. 42:21; Eccl.7:22; Rom. 3:19; Ps. 40:12; Is. 59:12; Jer. 3:25)

Biblically Informed Conscience



NO LIMITS

LICENSE TO SIN BOLDLY!

The bearer of this card is given a free pass to

SIN BOLDLY

Rights and privileges include but are not limited to: playing cards, dancing and drinking beer.

Authorized by *Mr. Smith*

Liberal Conscience

The Courtroom of the Heart



Rigid, Cruel Conscience

Guilt
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“Conscience-Guilt” and Emotions

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Awareness of guilt (Conscious-guilt) or condemnation produces:

- 1) Fear, anxiety
- 2) Shame, disgrace, embarrassment
- 3) Depression, gloom, despair
- 4) Regret, anguish, grief, etc.
- 5) Anger, hatred, resentment, bitterness
- 6) Vengeance

A Good Conscience

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

A clear conscience (good/pure/purged), results in joy, hope, freedom, contentment, happiness, wellbeing, etc.. This “sense of peace” must not be confused with the judicial declaration of peace which comes at the moment of salvation. (Rom.5:1)
The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.(1 Timothy 1:5 ESV)

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit (Romans 9:1 ESV)

Why Can't I Clear My Conscience?

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

■ Unbeliever's Conscience

- an evil conscience--condemns and accuses eternally
- a defiled conscience - unable to accurately warn of sin
- a seared conscience-completely rendered insensitive, unable to be touched or respond to the knowledge of sin any longer.

Why Can't I Clear My Conscience?

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

■ Believer's Conscience

- Defiled-soiled, polluted, stained or contaminated by sin (1 Cor. 8:7)
- Weak
 - uninformed of biblical Truth
 - Un-exercised (Rom. 14:1-5, 23)
- Calloused-repeated exposure to sin and repeated failure to *“walk in the light”*

A Defiled Conscience

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

The defiled conscience has been soiled, polluted, stained or contaminated by sin. A defiled conscience must be cleansed and purged through repentance and faith. In the above reference, the conscience was defiled because of a misunderstanding of the Word of God. This defilement came as a result of a lack of understanding. This can be described as a weak conscience.

1 Cor. 8:7

Rev. 3:19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

A Weak Conscience

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Weak due to ignorance or lack of exercise.

Chooses worldly sorrow

Condemns self, others

Confines oneself, creates a “personal gospel”

Controlled by condemnation, fear, self-sacrifices

A Weak Conscience

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Weak due to ignorance or lack of exercise.

Rom. 14:1-5, 23

Must reject the old standard, learn and embrace Biblical standards

Those who “have knowledge” have the responsibility to lovingly avoid offending their weak Brother *as they help the weaker person grow* “in knowledge”.

Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

A Defiled Conscience

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

Is a result of a weak or limited understanding of a biblical standard. A belief that one is guilty because of believing unbiblical standards.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through *former association* with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (1 Cor. 8:7 ESV)

Guilt
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A Calloused Conscience

Why Guilt?
Defining Guilt
Discerning Guilt
Dealing with Guilt

A calloused conscience is a product of failing to “*walk in the light*”, *confessing* sin on a regular basis. A *pure conscience* is a bi-product of the community that the Body of Christ offers; “*exhorting one another daily*” & “*Walking in the light*”. My brother’s calloused conscience is my responsibility. A calloused conscience can be avoided by accountability in the Body of Christ through open confession to one another.

1 Jn. 1; Heb. 3:12-13; Ja. 5:16



Homework

- Write a summary of this session



Next Classes

- V.10 *Guilt and Repentance* Part 2, March 12—Kent Kloter
- V.11 *Forgiveness*, March 19—Kent Kloter
- V.12 *Goal of Parenting*, March 26—Kent Kloter



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March 5, 2012

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