

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD  
YOU AND YOUR CONSCIENCE  
1 JOHN 3:19–24



### The Heart of the Matter

Who hasn't battled a guilty conscience? On the other hand, who hasn't felt the reassurance of a clear conscience? When we do something wrong, this silent voice within—like the warning light on the dashboard of our car—gives off signals we find virtually impossible to ignore. Even when we try hard to convince ourselves that everything is okay, if our conscience doesn't agree, it will not let us rest. You'll be pleased to know that as far back as the first century, John addressed this struggle. He offered all of us some advice that is not only helpful, it is inspired by God.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Introductory Issues

This is a difficult section of Scripture, so we must remember the immediate context (1 John 3:11–18) and understand the key terms “truth” and “heart.”

#### 2. When Our Conscience “Condemns” Us (1 John 3:19–20)

Our conscience often condemns us in our weakness, but never forget that God is greater than our conscience.

#### 3. When Our Conscience “Does Not Condemn” Us (1 John 3:21–24)

When our conscience doesn't condemn us, we reap three great benefits: confidence toward God, answers to prayer, and reassurance from the Spirit.



### Starting Your Journey

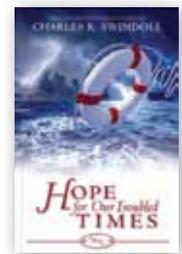
Let's put this all together by looking at three perspectives. First, when your conscience accuses you, look back and ask why? Second, when your heart affirms you, look around and see why. And third, when the Spirit assures you, look within and know why.



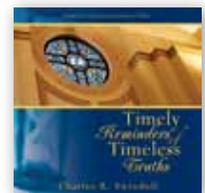
### Tools for Digging Deeper



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