

Romans 2:14-16

¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ¹⁶ on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Question: Why do I feel guilty?

Focal Truth:

The conscience produces guilt when we sin.

1. Everyone has a conscience.

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them... Rom. 2:14-15

2. How does the conscience work?

... in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them... Rom. 2:15

2. How does the conscience work? (cont'd.)

- The conscience is self-judgement.
- The conscience is the witness and recorder of our actions.
- The conscience testifies, accusing or excusing our actions.
- The conscience judges our actions either as sinful or right.
- The conscience punishes or excuses our actions producing emotions.

3. The power of guilt and shame

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Gen. 2:25

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. Gen. 3:7

3. The power of guilt and shame (cont'd)

- The innocence of a peaceful conscience was gone.
- The feelings of hiding, shame had come.
- The words to justify their sin had come.
- The man-made efforts to hide their guilt and soothe their conscience
- They, in their guilt, became their own judge.

4. Repentance of sin brings freedom from a guilty conscience.

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Cor. 7:10

- 4. Repentance of sin brings freedom from a guilty conscience. (cont'd.)
- Repentance means to change your mind.
- Godly sorrow is a guilty conscience for sin leading to repentance. - 2 Cor. 7:9
- Worldly sorrow is a guilty conscience without repentance for sin. - 2 Cor. 7:10
- Repentance of sin produces peace of mind. 1 John 3:21

Daily Use:

- Are you living under the torment of a guilty conscience today?
- Are you hiding in shame trying to excuse or refuse the accusation of your conscience?
- God calls us to repent and confess our sins believing that He will forgive us our sins in Christ Jesus.

