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Title: What or Who Is a Christian? Christians Live with a Clear Conscience

Text: 1 John 3:19-24

One of the negative effects that sin has upon us is it gives us a conscience that is filled with guilt and shame. Once we become Christians by confessing our sin and accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, the result is God who has saved us is greater than our conscience.

Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Christians live with a non-condemning conscience because:

1. We have been forgiven of all our sin past, present and future.

Hebrews 10:17 -Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

2. Christ's substitutionary work on Calvary was sufficient to deliver us from condemnation.

Hebrews 9:28 - so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

3. Condemnation is removed at the moment of salvation.

John 3:17-18 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

4. We have been set free from being under the bondage of sin.

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 6:22 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

5. Freedom from guilt and shame gives us confidence when we pray.

1 John 3:21-22 - Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep His commands and do what is pleases Him.