

A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

A clear conscience is listed in Scripture as one of our most essential weapons for successful spiritual achievement.

DEFINITION OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

A clear conscience involves that inner freedom of spirit toward God and others that comes by knowing that God's Holiness is not offended by one's thought or action, and that no one can point a finger at you and say, "You've offended me, and you've never asked my forgiveness."

SCOPE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

A clear conscience must take into consideration every relationship in life.

GOD

FAMILY

RELATIVES

EMPLOYERS

TEACHERS

FORMER FRIENDS

OTHERS

HOW TO OBTAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

A clear conscience is the ability to look every person in the eye and know that not one of them can point a finger and say, "You offended me and you never tried to make it right."

1. LIST THOSE WITH WHOM YOU HAVE CONFLICTS INDICATING POSSIBLE OFFENSES.

- Parents
- Brothers/Sisters
- Grandparents
- Employers
- Associates
- Neighbors
- Local Authorities
- Friends
- Sons/Daughters
- Relatives
- Teachers
- Customers
- Others _____
- Others _____

2. Recognize that others may have sinned against you. Forgive them (before God) of any specific offenses that come to mind realizing that these are part of God's overall purpose for you..

3. LIST YOUR OFFENSES TOWARD THEM

Those Whom I Have Offended	My Basic Offense Toward Them	The Clearest Wording to Ask For Forgiveness	Best Means Phone Visit

Use additional space on back of paper if needed.

4. PURPOSE TO ASK FORGIVENESS

* Humble yourself in genuine repentance before God.

"Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:9-10

REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. Being sorry that you failed.
2. Being sorry that others have rejected you.
3. Being sorry that your reputation has been damaged.
4. Being sorry that you lost your money or possessions.

REPENTANCE IS

Confessing that you are proud, and then grieving over this condition of heart: "Only by pride cometh contention..." (Proverbs 13:10).

Confessing and grieving over the fact that you have resisted the grace which God gave you to do His will. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

Confessing and grieving that your actions have caused God's name to be blasphemed by His enemies. (See II Samuel 12:14 and Titus 2:5.)

Confessing that you have been trying to take charge of your life and that you have been following your own lusts and desires. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members" (James 4:1).

BEFORE ASKING FORGIVENESS...

Is a change in my behavior necessary first?

Should any restitution be made?

Have I relived my offense through their feelings?

IN ASKING FORGIVENESS...

Have I identified what offended them most?

Does my wording imply blame to them or others?

Am I trying to justify my offenses in any way?

Am I trying to "preach" to them?

Is my confession an indirect attempt to get them to change?

AFTER ASKING FORGIVENESS...

Am I prepared to respond in the right way even though they don't forgive me?

How can I sincerely thank them if they do forgive me? Am I prepared for no change in them?

Could I ask them to reveal further blind spots in my life?

5. CAREFULLY CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORDING