

YOUR CONSCIENCE -- IS IT LIMITING YOU?

By Nino Boezio

In the name of progress, conscience is often maligned and attacked today. Conscience is frequently labeled as a misleading and deceptive guide for your life.

A regular narrative is that, as we were growing up, we were taught many principles of right and wrong which were not valid. Therefore we should disregard feelings of guilt, concern and outright caution.

As the argument goes, throwing out conscience will result in greater creativity, beneficial experimentation, will help us better understand our inner being, and overall, our life will be more fulfilling. There will be no pain or suffering once we get over the fear, guilt and concern set off by the alarm bells of conscience.

However, we need to understand how conscience works. A person's conscience is developed through life experiences and by teaching. From a career or work standpoint, we will eventually develop a "6th sense" as to how things will turn out. It is true that conscience can also lead to bad outcomes, but we need to understand why and when.

If we have been taught that certain things are right or wrong, and these teachings happened to be incorrect, then our conscience will be a problem. For example, if we have been taught that cannibalism is an acceptable dietary practice, then we will not feel guilty from engaging in it, even though society in general will abhor and not accept such behavior.

Provided we have been taught correctly, conscience is actually a very powerful and useful mechanism for protecting us from participating in harmful behavior and actions.

The human mind can be brilliant in certain aspects. Even though a situation may not be clear, the mind is able to assemble correlations based on past experiences and teachings, to warn us to stay away from or avoid certain activities. The impact and influence of conscience is actually a wonderful thing.

Many today like to criticize and attack conscience's influence because they want to engage in activities which their inner self and society flags to be wrong. They don't want restrictions on their life.

We need to evaluate what we have been taught. In the majority of cases, what we have been told throughout the centuries as to what is right or wrong, has been successfully tested over and over again. It is not true that human beings are ignorant in everything they do.

Shutting off conscience is not the solution to a better life, but understanding the truth of what is right and wrong is, and thereafter living according to it. Our conscience forms a useful tool in guiding our life when it has been built upon the proper foundation and understanding.

If there is any debate over matters of conscience, it should be over whether we are living upon the right principles to begin with. In many cases, we already know the answer.

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