**Lesson 3**

**Part I: How Do I Deal With My Guilt?**

1. Working definitions are not necessarily universal definitions, but they give a unity of understanding for the applications of the truths and principles applied.
	1. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is typically rooted in pride and is experienced with a perceived violation of our person in a social setting.
		1. Shame can cause life changes, bondage and even depression.
		2. Corrective measure is to humble yourself before God first and then eliminate un-Biblical expectations for yourself.
	2. “Guilt” and “Guilty” are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ terms. A person is declared “guilty” as the result of violating a set of laws or standards and thereby deserves to be punished. It is first a spiritual judicial condition. All are guilty of sin judicially before a righteous God and thereby deserving of God’s appointed punishment
		1. Guilty – is the result of violating God’s laws of right versus wrong.
		2. Guilt – is a condition of the soul; a mental and emotional response to a personal violation of one’s conscience in relationship to a law and will ultimately impact the will (choices that will be made.).
		3. Guilt/guilty is the result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ holy and just Laws and standards:
			1. Inherited at conception through the imputation of the sin curse and nature from Adam (Rom. 5:12{NT – pg. 222}).
			2. Incurred by personal participation in any/every sin that violates God’s holiness found in His Laws and standards. (Rom. 6:23{NT – pg. 223})
			3. We are guilty before God whether we feel like it or not; whether we agree with it or not.
		4. Guilt/guilty is the result of \_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ laws or standards whether they are good or evil:
			1. Incurred by personal violation of any/every civil law, ordinance, etc. whether just or unjust.
			2. Incurred by a personal violation of any self-imposed standard no matter how arbitrary, just or unjust.
2. To fully understand ***why*** we “feel guilt” within, we must understand the work of our conscience.
	1. “Conscience” – the inner knowledge of self in relation to a known set of laws of right and wrong. A knowing of our moral acts and state in connection with some moral standard or law which is conceived of as our true self and therefore as having authority over us. (Thiessen)
	2. “Conscience” – is discriminative and impulsive; it declares our acts and states to conform or not to conform with the standard, and it declares these acts and states which conform to be obligatory. (Strong)
	3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person is born with a conscience that reveals there is a God and that God has a standard of right and wrong. (Rom. 1:19-21; 2:14-16{NT – pg. 217-218})
		1. The conscience tells us that there is a God but does not describe Him or bring a personal knowledge of Him; the Word of God was given for that purpose.
		2. The conscience tells us that God has a right and a wrong, but does not describe it; the Word of God was given for that purpose. (Rom. 7:7-13{NT – pg. 224})
		3. The conscience is a God-given capacity to exercise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-judgment.
		4. The conscience is a first person witness of your life; however, it is an insufficient testimony and a fallible witness without full instruction from the Word of God.
			1. (I Cor. 8:7{NT – pg. 243}; Tit. 1:15{NT – pg. 304}) – our conscience can be defiled.
			2. (I Tim. 4:2{NT – pg. 297}) – our conscience can be seared.
			3. (Hebr. 9:14{NT – pg. 314}) – our conscience can be purged i.e. cleaned up Biblically.
		5. Therefore our conscience is a servant to our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system and will produce peace (real or temporary/synthetic) or pain (just or unjust).
3. Let’s consolidate what we now know.
	1. We are all guilty before God because of the sin guilt imputed to us through Adam and because we are guilty by our participation in sin; deserving the righteous and just punishment of God.
		1. We are guilty before God whether we feel guilt (or not) and whether we agree that we are guilty (or not).
		2. There are two means of satisfying God’s justice 🡪 personally in an eternal hell or by receiving His pardon through repentance and faith.
		3. As a believer, we may reconcile ourselves to God via I John 1:9 {NT – pg. 335}.
	2. We may experience guilt by being guilty through violating civil laws which must be reconciled through a civil judicial system. (whether just or unjust)
	3. We may experience guilt by feeling guilty of a violation of arbitrary laws or values that have been self-imposed. (Just or unjust)
		1. If it is a “just” value, then it will be unified with the Word of God and will aid in building Godly character.
		2. If it is an “unjust” value, then it will violate the Word of God and thereby produce an un-Biblical verdict of “guilty” and un-Biblical guilt that produces an irreconcilable pain.
			1. This is solved by changing the un-Biblical value to a Biblical value!
4. It is through our conscience that the Holy Spirit can use the Word of God to bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into our full understanding that we are guilty before God, deserving His punishment and to “feel” that guilt. (John 16:7-14{NT – pg. 158})
* **Because God has given us a free-will there are multiple ways to respond to the work of our conscience.**
	1. As Saul/Paul did in Acts 9:1-9{NT – pg. 181} – with a purged conscience that responded with brokenness, repentance and faith.
	2. As Judas did in Matt. 27:1-5{NT – pg. 46} – with a defiled and seared conscience which resulted in self-destruction and even suicide.
	3. As O.T. Saul did in I Samuel 15 – with a defiled and seared conscience which resulted in a false repentance that repeatedly made excuses in an attempt to justify his sin. This resulted in destroying his life, his family, and his kingdom.
	4. As David did in II Sam. 12:13{OT – pg. 443} (cp. Ps. 38 & 51{OT – pg. 761/769}) – with a purged conscience that responded with true brokenness and repentance.
* **When we are Biblically guilty before God for sinning against Him, the sense of guilt we feel is designed to bring us to God with brokenness and repentance so that we may restore our relationship with Him.**
* **When we respond to Biblical guilt with a hardness of heart, defiling and searing our conscience, then we will experience an un-resolvable pain and pursue a path of self-destruction.**