

## CONSCIENCE = GUIDE?

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In Walt Disney's 1955 cartoon classic, Pinocchio, a wooden marionette built by Gepetto is brought to partial life by the Blue Fairy as Jiminy Cricket looks on. But in order for Pinocchio to become a real live boy, the Fairy tells him that he must learn to choose between right and wrong. He learns that his conscience will tell him what is right and wrong, and both the Fairy and Jiminy Cricket tell him to "always let your conscience be your guide."

This fairy tale philosophy reflects the thinking of many today. They let their conscience (their own wisdom) be their guide, instead of being guided by the truth of God and letting their conscience judge their actions by that standard.

Notice the problems with this philosophy:

**Always letting your conscience be your guide contradicts the inspired advice of Scripture:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

**Always letting your conscience be your guide conflicts with the warnings of Scripture:** "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

**Always letting your conscience be your guide denigrates the enlightening power of God's word:** "Your word is a light to my feet and a light to my path and "The entrance of Your words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple" (Psa. 119:105, 130).

**Always letting your conscience be your guide ignores its potential for wrong as exemplified in Scripture:** The apostle Paul declared, "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (Acts 23:1). Yet he confessed that he "persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" and "I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 22:4; 26:9).

Our conscience can misguide us if we are not determined to follow the truth of God. **Let God's word always be your guide!!**