



REVENGE OF A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

A guilty conscience will sometimes manifest itself in:

1. Criticism of others: It is easy to pick others apart for their sin. The cure? Extend grace to others like you would want it extended to you.
2. Self-atonement is attempted through spiritual discipline. Rather than resting in the finished work of Christ, the illusion is that our good works must outweigh our bad works.
3. Hyper-sensitivity and anger: To compensate for a guilty conscience some people feel that they need to be perfect. The prevailing thought is: "I cannot make a mistake."
4. Life on the surface: The heart is locked in a vault and there is a refusal to allow anyone inside to really love them for who they are. The thinking is, "I do not deserve love." If this is true on a human level, how much more is it true on a spiritual level?
5. False belief that sin is a bigger deal than the gospel.
6. Neglect of passages such as Galatians 5:16-25. This passage compares/contrasts the works of the flesh and the fruit of the spirit. These "lists" make it easy to spot your direction.
7. Dishonesty with self, others, and God. This occurs when we do not come to terms with the gospel.
8. Saying "I'm sorry." Saying "I'm sorry" was never intended for use with sin. It is better used with non-sin events. Why? Asking forgiveness requires a response. When sin is in play, it is essential that the sinner and the one sinned against engage with each other.
9. A misunderstanding of the Gospel. Suppose that a person burns down your house and wants you to forgive him and he asks you to allow him to help you rebuild. The height of Christian maturity is for the offended party to not only forgive, but to allow the offender to be part of the restoration

process. This is the gospel.

In our illustration, the gospel is the fact that the house that we burned down has been rebuilt and it is our glory to live there and invite others to do the same.