

# Conscience



(Image courtesy of Stuart Miles / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

## Reading

What is conscience? It is defined differently by various people. To some it is an innate sense of right and wrong. To others it is something we learn from our parents and our society. Some people are actively guided by their conscience in every undertaking. Others seem to pay little heed to moral decisions and excuse their actions by saying "It's just business" or "If I didn't do it, then someone else would, so I might as well be the one to benefit" or "Everybody does it" or "I didn't mean to hurt anyone."

Is it possible to be perfectly honest? Is it okay to do something wrong if it is a trivial matter or if in the service of a greater good? It may be true that we live in a selfish, competitive world, so nobody is absolutely free from guilt. To survive, maybe we have no choice but to damage someone else's interests in order to protect our own. Does a tiger have less right to live than a deer? Or a deer than grass? But even so, there is no excuse for taking deliberate advantage of other people. Any wrong action deliberately undertaken, no matter how minuscule, should be the last to be forgiven. It is important not to try to hurt others on purpose.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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