

3. *The Principle of Responsibility*

The importance of a good conscience was emphasized by Paul when he sent Timothy to battle for the right, armed only with his “faith and a good conscience.” He explained that some have laid these weapons aside, and have “made shipwreck of their faith.” (See I Timothy 1:19.) A good conscience is the ability to look every person in the eye and know that not one of them can point a finger and say, “You offended me and never tried to make it right.” Each of us is to “. . . have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” (Acts 24:16).

STEPS IN GAINING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

1. LIST THEIR OFFENSES. (PARENTS)

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

2. LIST YOUR OFFENSES.

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

3. PURPOSE TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS.

- _____
 _____ *I Timothy 1:19*
- _____
 _____ *Proverbs 28:13*
- _____
 _____ *Hebrews 5:14*
- _____
 _____ *I Peter 3:15*
- _____
 _____ *II Peter 2:21*
- _____

A. IDENTIFY THE BASIC OFFENSE.

- _____ *I Peter 3:10*
- _____ *II Corinthians 5:10*
- _____ *Matthew 12:36*
- _____ *James 4:17*
- _____

B. WORK OUT THE RIGHT WORDING.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

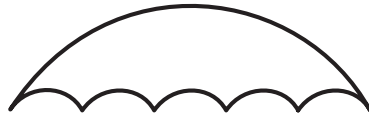
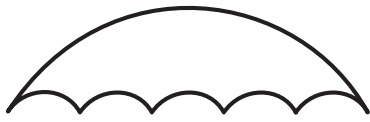
- **Suggested wording:** (See Luke 15:18.)
*“God has convicted me of how wrong I was in _____.
I don’t deserve your forgiveness, but would you forgive me?”*

C. USE THE APPROPRIATE METHOD.

- _____ _____
- _____

GOD'S IDEAL FOR FAMILY HARMONY

Chain of Counsel



1st born



2nd born



3rd born



Tendencies

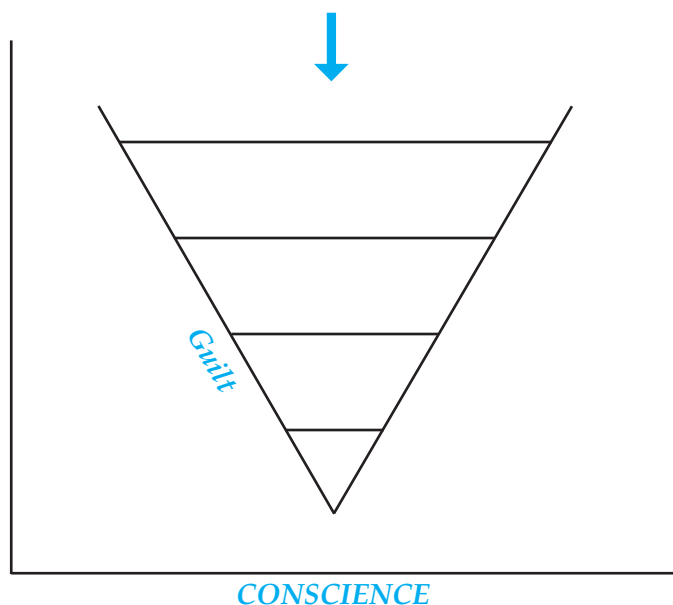
BASIS OF FAMILY DISHARMONY



D. UNDERSTAND REFUSAL TO FORGIVE, IF IT COMES.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

E. BEWARE OF MISPLACED CONVICTION.



The importance of clearing our consciences quickly is emphasized by Jesus in Matthew 5:23–24: *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar . . . go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”* We should clear our consciences with the Lord first, then with those we have offended, beginning with those we have hurt the most. It is wise to be accountable to a friend. Make sure a full confession is made, because partial confession is more damaging than none.