

OUR CONSCIENCE

Acts 24:16 (kju) And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Fact 1: The existence of a conscience in every person born into this world.

- The acknowledgement that a conscience is in every one of us.

Fact 2: God's part in the conscience.

- God wrote His Laws in the conscience of every man born into this world.

Fact 3: The purpose or function of the conscience within us.

- The conscience either **accuses** or **excuses** us, according to our behaviour, and thoughts, attitudes, motives and actions.
- Before we act our conscience will either tell us *'don't do that'*, or *'it is right to do it'*.

Fact 4: The heathen who do not have the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ will be judged according to the light of their conscience.

- The heathen do have the light of their conscience and it will either **accuse** or **excuse** their actions of life.

Romans 2:15 (nlt) They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Fact 5: Since being born again our conscience has been cleansed and purified through the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 9:14 (nkjv) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Acts 23:1 (nkjv) Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Fact 6: Do not violate what your conscience is saying to you.

- Listen and obey the voice of your conscience.

1 Timothy 1:19 (nlt) Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their

faith has been shipwrecked. (ruined, suffer loss)

Fact 7: The voice of conscience and God's Word and Spirit.

- The voice of our conscience and the Word of God should be consistently saying the same thing.
- If there is a difference, then the **Word of God** should be followed.
- The conviction of the Holy Spirit and the witness of conscience work together in complete harmony.

John 8:9 (kjb) And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Romans 2:15 (nlt) For their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Romans 9:1 (niv) I speak the truth in Christ - I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit.

Fact 8: By our constant refusal to hear and obey our conscience will result in serious damage done to its operation / function within us.

- The conscience can become cauterized – seared, made dead and lose its’ capacity for truth.

*1 Timothy 4:2 (kjv) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared** with a hot iron.*

(amp) Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized).

*(nlt) their consciences are **dead**.*

*(msg) they've **lost** their capacity for truth.*

SEARED – CAUTERISED

- **What does “seared” mean?**

Medical terms: *to burn the skin or flesh of with a heated instrument or caustic substance in order to stop bleeding or to prevent infection.*

Biblical terms: *to brand ("cauterize"), i.e. (by implication) to render unsensitive.*

- ‘seared’ implies extreme insensibility as cauterizing deadens sensation.
- A seared conscience is one that is completely dead. It's calloused over so that we cannot feel anything.
- When our conscience is seared, our lives become hypocritical.

- Losing the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character, together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good - having a guilty conscience

Fact 9: **Without natural affection.**

- To be without natural affection is our inability or unwillingness to express affection naturally.
- Those who refuse to hear the witness of their conscience eventually lose the most basic value of natural affection.

Romans 1:31 (kjv) Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable(cruel), unmerciful.

(amp) They were without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless and merciless.

(philips) They scoffed at duty to parents, they mocked at learning, recognised no obligations of honour, lost all natural affection, and had no use for mercy.

(darby) void of understanding, faithless, without natural affection, unmerciful.

Fact 10: **A truth to remember.**

God's goal for our lives is **love** - that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5-6 (niv) The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6: Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.

Love that springs from a pure heart, good (clear) conscience, sincere (unfeigned) faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 (amp) Whereas the object and purpose of our instruction and charge is love, which springs from a pure heart and a good (clear) conscience and sincere (unfeigned) faith.

Fact 11: Identifying the state of our conscience.

- Are you happy with how your conscience is working in you? Are you hearing its voice?

2 Corinthians 4:2 (net) But we have rejected shameful hidden deeds, not behaving with deceptiveness or distorting the word of God, but by open proclamation of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience before God.

May we respect the function of our conscience within us as we also do with the Word of God.