



# ROMANS

The Glory of The Gospel

## ***How To Disagree on Matters of Conscience***

### ***Romans 14:1-12***

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#### **I. What Is the CONSCIENCE?**

##### **A. Things that the conscience can BE**

1. The conscience can be **GOOD** in the sense of blameless, clear, clean, and pure (*Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Tim 1:5, 19; 3:9; Heb 13:18; 1 Peter 3:16-21*)
2. The conscience can be **CLEANSED**, that is, cleared, perfected, purified, washed, purged, and sprinkled clean (*Heb 9:9, 14; 10:22*)
3. Negatively, the conscience can be **WEAK** (*1 Cor 8:7, 10, 12*)
4. The conscience can be **WOUNDED** (*1 Cor 8:12*)
5. The conscience can be **DEFILED** (*1 Cor 8:7; Titus 1:15*)
6. The conscience can be encouraged or emboldened to **SIN** (*1 Cor 8:10*)
7. The conscience can be **EVIL** or **GUILTY** (*Heb 10:22*)
8. And finally, the conscience can be **SEARED**, as with a hot iron (*1 Tim 4:2*)

B. Things that the conscience can **BE**

1. The conscience can **BEAR WITNESS** or **CONFIRM** (*Rom 2:15; 9:1; 2 Cor 1:12; 4:2; 5:11*)
2. The conscience can **JUDGE** or try to determine another person's **FREEDOM** (*1 Cor 10:29*)
3. And The conscience can lead one to **ACT** a certain way (*Rom 2:15; 13:5; 1 Cor 10:25-28*)

C. Definition: **The conscience is your consciousness of what you believe is right and wrong**

1. The conscience produces **DIFFERENT** results for people based on different moral standards
2. The conscience can **CHANGE**
3. The conscience functions as a **GUIDE**, monitor, witness, and judge

## II. The Principle of Theological **TRIAGE**

- A. First level issues are most **CENTRAL** and **ESSENTIAL** to Christianity
- B. Second level issues create **REASONABLE BOUNDARIES** between Christians
- C. Third level issues are **DISPUTABLE** matters, or matters of **CONSCIENCE**

☆ **Disagreements on third-level issues should not be cause for DISUNITY within a local church family.**

## III. The **CONTEXT** of Romans 14

- A. Those with a strong conscience were tempted to **ARROGANCE**
- B. Those with a weak conscience were tempted to **JUDGMENTALISM**

## IV. **12 Principles about How to Disagree with other Christians over Matters of Conscience**

- A. **WELCOME** those who disagree with you (v.1-2)