

Empty of ideas; unintelligent; indicative of mental vacancy.  
Devoid of content or substance. An empty space. Unoccupied  
with the usual or natural contents.<sup>2</sup>

**Ephesians 4:17** I repeatedly communicate and  
affirm at successive intervals with the Lord, that you no  
longer walk in wheel-tracks of wickedness as the  
heathen also walk in the vacuousness of their souls,

**v. 18** having through a process arrived at a  
permanently darkened state in their way of thinking,  
having been estranged, excluded, alienated from the life  
of God because of the ignorance which keeps on being  
in them because of the hardness of their heart; (EXT)

15. The mentality of the soul is divided into two parts: (1) νοῦς (*noús*): translated “mind” and (2) καρδία (*kardía*): translated “heart.” Information in the *noús* is perceived academically while information in the *kardía* is perceived spiritually.
16. The heart is divided into seven functional aspects of the soul essence: (1) frame of reference, (2) memory center, (3) vocabulary storage, (4) categorical storage, (5) conscience, (6) momentum, and (7) wisdom.

## VII. Scar Tissue of the Soul

**Ephesians 4:19** and they, having become  
calloused with scar tissue of the soul, have personally  
become perverted resulting the practice of every kind of  
immorality with insatiable lust. (EXT)

1. Spiritual growth is interrupted by negative volition and results in a vacuum within the soul, indicated by the noun ματαιότης (*mataiότης*) (v. 17).
2. Through this vacuum rush “doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1) and other satanic propaganda resulting in the blackout of the soul.
3. At this stage all previous aspects of the reversionistic process are intensified. This results in the development of scar tissue on the soul, indicated in verse 19 by the perfect active participle, ἀπαλγέω (*apalgéō*).

<sup>2</sup> The Oxford English Dictionary, s.vv. “vacuous, vacuum.”



4. This is a hapax legomenon used by Paul and the word *calloused* best translates the meaning of the verse.

**callus: A thickened and hardened part of the skin or soft tissue, especially in an area that has been subjected to friction. ORIGIN mid 16th century: from Latin *callus* 'hardened skin.'**<sup>3</sup>

5. *Apalgēō* refers to the mental attitude reversionists have toward others. These mental attitudes harden their souls which over the course of time form a callous over their inventory of divine viewpoint.
6. This is where the frantic search for happiness kicks into high gear. The failure to achieve true happiness results in intensified frustration and often leads to psychosis and self-destruction.

### **VIII. Reverse Process Reversionism**

1. This final stage is the combination of the sixth and seventh stages. This results in soul degradation where the believer's *kardía* is filled with the cosmic lie with total rejection of establishment and doctrinal viewpoint.
2. True patriotism is a mental attitude that subscribes to the standards expressed by the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the subsequent Amendments.
3. The tyrant opposes this system of order and violates its standards under the subjective mantra of "change" imposed by civil disobedience rather than through legal channels.
4. Biblically, the imperative moods of Scripture are ignored in place of malleable standards based on personal opinions.
5. Degeneracy within the national Zeitgeist is preceded by degeneracy within the souls of its citizens each defined by the loss of order.
6. Reverse Process Reversionism is the inverted position of degeneracy by the reversal of objects. In this final stage, the bona fide objects of love, including consistent study of the Word of God, personal love for God, occupation with Christ, and familial absolutes, are all reversed.
7. Here are several principles related to Reverse Process Reversionism:

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<sup>3</sup> *The New Oxford American Dictionary* (2001), s.v. "callus."



1. Leaves the true object of personal love and gravitates toward pseudo-love objects.
2. Seeks one's own personal glory instead of God's, any false lover other than his right woman, and anyone he can use to advance his personal agenda.
3. Blots out all imperative moods, norms and standards, and categories of systematic theology.
4. Turns away from the laws of divine establishment, salvation by grace through faith alone in Christ alone, and the doctrines and standards of the Word of God.
5. Fulfills several passages that describe the reversionistic mentality.
8. Failure to recover from reverse process reversionism usually results in the sin unto death, a divine judicial decision imposed on believers who habitually function in the cosmic systems.

### Justification or Vindication?

1. Justification is the translation of the Greek verb, **δικαίωω** (*dikaiōō*): “to justify.” In the New Testament, it is impossible for anyone to be made righteous by himself since he was decreed unrighteous at physical birth.
2. All humanity is born condemned by the possession of Adam's original sin imputed to the genetically formed sin nature.
3. In the New Testament, the verb *dikaiōō*, when in the active voice, means that a person is justified by a judicial act of God since man cannot justify himself.
4. The best English word to translate *dikaiōō* is “vindication” and there are three areas of vindication in Scripture:
  1. **Vindication** is a judicial act by God Who recognizes that He has given us His perfect righteousness. This is technically called forensic justification.  
  
Example. David was vindicated as being the king, even though many things occurred, some justifiable and some not, God never removed David. Therefore, David was vindicated by God. We studied this concept in the context of David's installment discipline.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See JAS1-97 for a synopsis of David's installment discipline. See also the visual, “David's Installment Discipline.”

2. **Salvation.** The point where the unbeliever places his personal faith in Jesus Christ resulting in deliverance from the lake of fire and the imputation of eternal life. This is referred to as “justification by faith” or “vindication by faith.” The verb “to believe,” as in John 3:16, is nonmeritorious, therefore through grace, God vindicates that individual.
3. **Production.** This is the act of divine good accomplished under the filling of the Holy Spirit and guidance from the Word of God. This is referred to as “justification by works” or “vindication by works.” This category of vindication is illustrated by Abraham’s willingness to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice upon an altar of wood in Genesis 22:9. Justification by works is the subject of James 2:21–26.
5. Principle: Be alert to the difference between the two phrases “justification by faith,” which refers to salvation, and “justification by works,” which refers to production of divine good.
6. In the Tanakh, the verb “to justify” is **צָדַק (savaq)**: “to be right, to be righteous, to be just, to be innocent, to be put right, to declare right.”<sup>5</sup>
7. In the New Testament the verb is *dikaiōō*: **a.** “Spoken especially of the justification bestowed by God upon men through Christ, through the instrumentality of faith (Romans 3:26, 30; 4:5; 8:30, 33; Galatians 3:8) where faith is stressed as the means of being justified, and **b.** with the phrase ‘of works’ (**ἐξ ἔργων [ex érgōn]**), as in James 2:21, 24, 25.”<sup>6</sup>
8. The verb *dikaiōō* is translated “justification” in English Bibles, but the word “vindicate” also provides insight into the word’s use in Scripture:  
**Vindicate. To make or set free; to deliver or rescue [salvation]. To clear from censure, criticism, suspicion, or doubt, by means of demonstration; to justify or uphold by evidence or argument [production of divine good]. To provide justification for; to justify by facts or results. Vindication. Deliverance; emancipation.**<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, “צָדַק,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 2003), 6663.

<sup>6</sup> Zodhiates, “δικαιόω,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, 463-64.

<sup>7</sup> *The Oxford English Dictionary* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971), s.vv. “vindicate, vindication.”

