



**JUSTICE**

By Pastor Rollan Fisher

# Justice: Starting the Conversation

**WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min):** Share if and why you think justice is an essential understanding for the church of Jesus Christ?

**READ:** Psalm 89:14, Gen 1:26-27, Psalm 10:17-18, 2 Tim 2:13, Prov 6:16-19, Rom 5:12, Prov 31:8-9, Js 2:13, Prov 18:21, Psalm 139:23-24, Prov 24:6, Js 1:19-20, Eph 5:11-17, Eph 2:12-14, Romans 3:26 (Bible texts on page 4)

**FOCUS:** Contextualizing all that we see going on around us in the person and purposes of God

## OBSERVE (10 minutes)

### ➤ Why Biblical Justice Matters

- God's character defines for us why justice matters. God's character is in focus when we talk about biblical justice. [\(Psalm 89:14\)](#)
- God created humanity as those who would bear His image in the Earth. When we break God's commandments and sin against those who bear His image, justice is required. [\(Gen 1:26-27\)](#)
- This covenant is mirrored in the 'social contract' that creates civilizations. When it is not upheld there is no basis for mutually agreed upon interaction. This gives way to "might makes right" ideology. [\(Psalm 10:17-18\)](#)

### ➤ The God of Justice

- Justice is embedded in God's nature. He cannot deny himself and acts faithfully to bring about justice in our world. [\(2 Tim 2:13\)](#)
- We speak against injustice because God first speaks against it. [\(Prov 6:16-19\)](#)
- Justice means that when a person commits a wrongful act, they are to reap the consequences of their sin. [\(Romans 5:12\)](#)
- Justice also means that those who live righteously have a responsibility to help shape an environment where justice can flourish. [\(Prov 31:8\)](#)
- Mercy and justice work hand in hand. In doing so, mercy triumphs over judgement. [\(Js 2:13\)](#)

➤ The Hard Road To Justice

- God's voice brings change and so does our voice when we speak His words ([Prov 18:21](#))
- We must ask God to search our hearts to remove grievous ways that we might walk in His ways. ([Psalm 139:23-24](#))
- Choose to expand your paradigm. Learn from those outside your ethnic and socioeconomic sphere. ([Prov 24:6](#))
- Speak the truth in love. Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. ([Js 1:19-21](#))
- Expose unjust anti biblical discrimination. Reject racist behavior as you encounter it. ([Eph 5:11-17](#))

➤ God's End Game

- God's end game is true justice AND true reconciliation. These are realized at the cross of Christ in repentance and faith. ([Eph 2:13-14](#))

*"I swore never to be silent whenever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant."*

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- 1) How do you determine what is just, right, and fair treatment of another individual?
- 2) How do you involve God in your responses to justice and injustice?
- 3) What conversations do we need to have to promote Biblical justice? What actions do we need to take to promote Biblical justice?
- 4) How is the Gospel of Jesus Christ involved in providing answers to biblical justice?

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

- Acknowledge God as the one true judge. Ask Him to search your heart for all sin, known and unknown.
- Repent of your sin and receive Christ for forgiveness.
- Receive the Holy Spirit to lead a new life as an ambassador of Christ. Share His Gospel of justice, mercy and reconciliation.
- Befriend others of different ethnicities and socioeconomic standing in order to grow in empathy.
- Find ways to be the healing hands of Jesus in practical service to the hurting and fearful.

## **Scripture References (ESV)**

### **Psalm 89:14**

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

### **Gen 1:26-27**

'Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. '

### **Psalm 10:17-18**

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

### **2 Tim 2:13**

'if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. '

### **Prov 6:16-19**

'There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.'

### **Romans 5:12**

'Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— '

### **Proverbs 31:8**

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

### **James 2:13**

'For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. '

### **Proverbs 18:21**

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

### **Psalm 139:23-24**

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

### **Prov 24:6**

'for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. '

### **James 1:19-20**

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

### **Ephesians 5:11-17**

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

### **Ephesians 2:12-14**

remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

### **Romans 3:26**

It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.