

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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Justice

by Warren Berkley

There can be no question the world is overflowing with injustice. Our newsfeeds push out stories and accounts daily of people who are not being treated right. In every such case there are, of course, people who are guilty of that mistreatment. And there are victims that must never escape our notice.

The outcry comes from all ranges of modern society, “this just isn’t right!” There are headlines of economic injustice, racial injustice, political injustice, and the list of claims is supplemented by journalists, advocates and campaigners almost every day. So I am not in denial. And you see what I mean. The world is overflowing with injustice. But how we define the word, what we include and mean by “justice” is vital.

What is often not spoken or circulated is, what justice is as defined by the Creator. I believe that is where most of these public

discussions fail. It is one thing to identify and claim an injustice. What is necessary is a clear concept of what justice is. I believe that question ought to take us to the Creator.

The biblical principle of justice isn’t just something in a list of rules, attributes or points of law. Justice in the Bible is inseparably linked to who God is. In reading the Bible, concepts like truth, love, mercy and justice are connected to who God is. Justice is not something God just wrote on tablets and expressed on parchment. God is just, thus those who seek His favor “do justice,” (Micah 6:8). God is merciful, thus those who seek His favor are merciful (Lk. 6:36). God is love, thus those who seek His favor imitate His love (1 Jno. 4:7). God is the “God of all grace,” so those who are recipients of His grace exhibit grace in their lives (Col. 4:6).

Therefore, any claim or personal

Justice ... concluded from front page

participation in justice – for Christians – must be in keeping with who God is and what His Word has revealed about justice. That means, for example, since God’s justice is His love for righteousness and His hatred for evil – we should “abhor what is evil” and “hold fast to what is good,” (Rom. 12:9). Further, since God is perfect, merciful and fair in His treatment of people – we should “honor everyone,” and do “no wrong” to our neighbor (1 Pet. 2:17, Rom. 13:10). God “shows no partiality,” therefore His people are not to be respecters of persons (Jas. 2:1-13 and Acts 10:34,35). Justice for Christians finds practical expression when we understand who God is and we think, speak and act in keeping with His model of justice.

Ideas have consequences. True ideas, like biblical justice, are essential building blocks for free, prosperous, and flourishing nations. Bad ideas, like ideological social justice, are terribly destructive, rending the social fabric, exacerbating hostility, and ultimately destroying relationships. It is imperative that Christ-followers, who are called to be ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17–20), carefully discern the difference between biblical justice and the ideology of social justice. Both use the word “justice” but mean vastly different things by it. *SOURCE -- Allen, Scott D. Why Social Justice Is Not Biblical Justice: An Urgent Appeal to Fellow Christians in a Time of Social Crisis (p. 20). Credo House Publishers. Kindle Edition.*

This leads me to this.

IT ISN'T JUSTICE ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE...

IF private property is stolen or destroyed. Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:28

IF marriage is “redefined.” Matt. 19:4-9

IF gender reality is dismissed. Matt. 19:4

IF innocent people are found guilty. Prov. 17:26

IF fathers are assumed guilty because of the sins of their sons. Ezek. 18

IF sons are considered guilty because of the sins of their fathers. Ezek. 18

IF truthful terms are “sanitized.” Isa. 5:20

IF “situation ethics” is applied. Rev. 21:8

IF killing babies is tolerated and celebrated. Psa. 139:13-16

IF oppression is practiced and promoted. Psa. 103:6

IF modern socialism is said to be the biblical model. Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:28

IF anything is practiced or advocated contrary to the Creator’s will.

Legitimate justice not only acknowledges the Creator, but practices what is seen in Him and written in His revelation.

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class April 13.

Services - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays through the month of April. We will announce any changes we decide on at the end of the month. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

Mark Your Calendars - our spring meeting with Tim Stevens is scheduled for April 25-28

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

Jack Wilson
Jerry & Nancy Richardson
Ron & Sue Stanberry
Karen Hallmark
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Bobbie Gibbons
Tyler Hairston
Don & Alene Simmons
Dorthy Steadman

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

