

BIBLICAL JUSTICE

VS.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Psalm 82, Luke 4:16-21

- I. God's Justice
- II. Christ's Gospel Focus
- III. Today's Social Justice

I. God's Justice - Biblical Justice

Justice in the Old Testament

Mishpat

To treat people equitably

Acquitting or punishing persons on the merits of the case, regardless of race or social status

Giving people their due, punishment or protection

Deuteronomy 18

Rectifying

Tzedakah

Being just, righteous, declaring a person right

Life of right relationships

Day-to-day living in family, society, with fairness, generosity and equity

Living right with God, leading to righteous social life

Primary

Biblical Justice

Tzedakah + Mishpat

Conveys “Social Justice”

Social Justice as subset

God-ordained justice

Rectifying justice belonging to the State

(Public or legal justice)

Justice between individuals

Justice involving organization and groups

(Social Justice)

Psalm 82

God is the ultimate Judge

God will administer justice in his courtroom of perfect justice

God's righteousness is the standard of justice

God appoints people to administer his justice

God does not overlook wickedness of judges/societies

God deeply cares for the weak, orphans, the needy, the powerless

God reigns over all the earth, He's Got It!

I. The Justice of God

- A. God's justice displays his righteousness
- B. God acts with justice
- C. God's justice is exercised fairly and equitably
- D. God establishes justice
- E. God's ways in exercising justice
- F. God's justice is satisfied by the cross work of Christ
- G. God's justice will be established in the reign of Christ
- H. God requires people to reflect HIS JUSTICE

A. God's Justice Displays His Righteousness

Deuteronomy 32:4

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are just; he is a faithful God, and without injustice; righteous and upright is he.

B. God Acts with Justice

Psalms 9:6

The LORD is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

C. God's Justice is Exercised Fairly and Equitably

Psalms 9:7-8

But Yahweh sits enthroned forever. He has established his throne for judgment. And he will judge the world with righteousness. He will judge the peoples with equity.

He judges people according to their deeds

Revelation 20:12-13, 22:12

He punishes wickedness

2 Thessalonians 1:8–9

...with burning flame giving punishment to those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, who will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his strength,

He rewards righteousness

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, the *crown of righteousness* is reserved for me, that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

D. God Establishes Justice

Psalm 45:6, 89:14

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

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

He upholds the cause of the oppressed

Isaiah 61:8

For I, Yahweh, love justice, hate robbery and injustice, and I will faithfully give their reward, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

He vindicates those who have been wronged

Romans 12:19

Do not take revenge yourselves, dear friends,
but give place to God's wrath, for it is written,
"Vengeance is mine, *I will repay*," says the Lord.

He is completely impartial

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, do the same things to them, giving up threats, knowing that both their Lord and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him.

E. God's Ways in Exercising Justice

Ecclesiastes 7:15

I have seen all these things in my vain life: Sometimes a righteous man perishes in spite of his righteousness, and sometimes a wicked man lives a long life in spite of his evil.

He warns before punishing

Hebrews 12:25

Watch out that you do not refuse the one who is speaking! For if those did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, much less will we escape, if we reject the one who warns from heaven,

He gives opportunity for people to repent

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, so that he will forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

F. God's Justice is Satisfied by Christ's Cross-work

Isaiah 53:10-11

Romans 3:25-26

G. God's Justice Will be Established in Christ's Reign

Revelation 15:3-4

Revelation 16:5-7

Revelation 19:1-2

H. God Requires People to Reflect His Justice

Proverbs 21:3

Doing righteousness and justice is more acceptable to Yahweh than sacrifice.

1 Timothy 5:21

I testify solemnly before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing according to partiality.

II. Christ's Gospel Focus

Justice in the New Testament

Dikaiosyne

Righteousness, Justice, justification

Judicial verdict, the verdict of approval

Righteousness of which God is the source

Divine approval, what is deemed right in His eyes

Doctrine concerning way in which man may attain to a state approved of God

Matthew - Lord Himself in Sermon on the Mount

Acts - Disciples in the spread of Gospel

Romans - Paul expounding on doctrine of justification by faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone

Luke 4:18-19

- Anointed
- To proclaim the good news to the poor
- To proclaim freedom to the captives
- Recovery of sight to the blind
- To set free the oppressed
- To proclaim year of the Lord's favor
- Appointed
- To preach the Gospel
- Heal brokenhearted
- Announce release of captives
- Sight to the blind
- Downtrodden freed
- God's blessings and salvation

III. Today's Social Justice

Justice

As the set and constant purpose which gives to every man his due

Institutes of Justinian, 6th C. Romand Law Code

Social Justice

justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society

Oxford English Dictionary

Comparison

Biblical Justice

1. Man made in God's image, born corrupt since the fall
2. Man responsible for own actions
3. Heart issue
4. Man's sin and condition is not natural
5. About individuals & Individual outcomes
6. Liberation from the power of sin
7. Equality of all humans as God's image bearers
8. Our identity, value is in Christ the Lord
9. Triune God of the Bible

Social Justice (academia, secular)

1. Man as a blank slate, born innocent
2. Society makes a "New Man"
3. State issue
4. Social/class struggle is natural
5. About groups & group outcomes
6. Liberation of inequality
7. Equity
8. About power, privilege, and oppression in impacting our experience for social identity
9. Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Darwin, Spencer, Karl Marx, J Dewey



Social Justice vs. Biblical Justice

Social Justice says...

Looting a person's business is an issue of "economic justice"

Abortion is an issue of "reproductive justice."

Gay marriage is a justice issue.

Biblical Justice says...

Looting breaks God's laws re: stealing and private property

Abortion violates God's law against murder.

God defines marriage as being between one man and one woman.

“No, Oral Roberts University basketball doesn't deserve to be canceled from NCAA Sweet 16”

*Ed Stetzer, Opinion Contributor, Dean of Wheaton College, former Lifeway Research
USA Today, 3/25/21*

Oral Roberts University isn't the feel good March Madness story we need | Opinion



Hemal Jhaveri [f](#) like

March 23, 2021 12:12 pm

USA Today, 3/23/21



*Georgia State Capitol After Spa/Massage Businesses Shooting
March to denounce racism, xenophobia, misogyny*

“This is our present crisis—not an external threat from terrorists or warlike nations or a viral pandemic, but a decline of faith, truth, and morality. It is hollowing out our society from within.”

Michael Youssef, Hope for This Present Crisis

"The cross is a revelation of God's justice as well as of his love. That is why the community of the cross should concern itself with social justice as well as with loving philanthropy."

John Stott, The Cross of Christ

God's Justice through CBC

Domestic Violence, Single Parenthood

Fort Bend Women's Shelter, Gracewood

Human Trafficking

Elijah Rising

Unexpected Pregnancy

Pregnancy Help Center Downtown

Sojourners/Illegals/Foreigners

Seamen's, BGCT, BSM, Bridges

Orphans (overseas)

Kind Samaritan, Teknotropheo

Seniors

Rainbow Village, Retirement Homes

Sick/Needy

Salt & Light Association

Article 15: The Christian and Social Order

Baptist Faith and Message, 2000

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick.

Article 15: The Christian and Social Order

We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>

Statement on Social Justice (Signed by 16,000+ Pastors/Leaders/Theologians)

<https://statementonsocialjustice.com/>

What Am I Called to Be and Do Then?

1. ***Empathize*** with those who experience injustices
2. ***Evaluate*** the worldviews through God's revealed Word
3. ***Engage*** in gospel conversations lovingly and truthfully

**SEEK
JUSTICE**

**LOVE
MERCY**

**WALK
HUMBLY**

MICAH 6:8