



Royal Duties

In an Upside-Down, Inside-Out Kingdom



*God's Kingdom: God's reign
through God's people, over
God's place*



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What are the responsibilities (i.e. duties) of this "royal priesthood" and "holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9), who are the people of God chosen to represent Him to and in this World?



The church is a “royal nation,” a new society (1 Peter 2:9) in which family life, business practices, race relations, and interpersonal relationships are changed. We are a pilot plant of the future kingdom of God, a place for the world to get a partial glimpse of what the humanity will look like under Jesus’ kingship and justice.

(Timothy Keller)



"Inside-Out"

Those who truly understand what life is like *inside* the Kingdom of God, will live it *out* the same way.



SEEK
FIRST

God's Kingdom is described as Kingdom of Justice, because God is Just (Psalm 9:7-9).

God's people are therefore called to be a community of Justice.



What *is* Justice?



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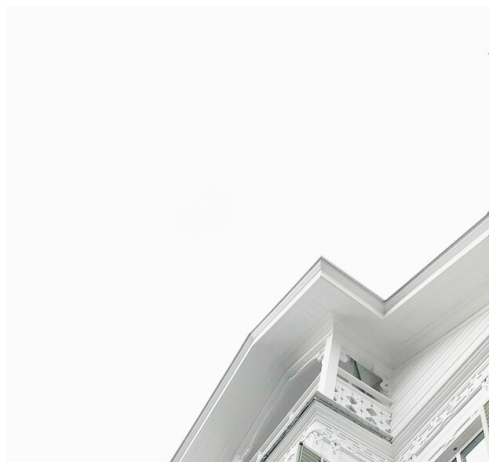
MAN'S VIEW OF JUSTICE

Recognising and understanding our misconceptions of Justice



GOD'S VIEW OF JUSTICE

Exploring the Bible to understand what Justice is to God



'JUST' LIKE JESUS

How do we become a people of Justice like our Lord?



Man's View of Justice



One of the fundamental characteristics that sets human beings apart from other creatures is our inherent need for and understanding of 'justice'.



GREED OR NEED?



Whether we realise it or not, we all have different ideas, views, images, thoughts, assumptions, and expectations of what 'Justice' is and how it is supposed to work.



**If we seek Justice based only on our own definitions/ideas/pictures, then we will be in danger of building our own kingdoms
- *not God's.***

The background is a photograph of green leaves and branches, likely from a ficus tree, set against a light grey background. The leaves are various shades of green and are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and texture.

GOD'S VIEW OF JUSTICE

A Biblical Vision of Justice



Justice & Righteousness



mišpāṭ

מִשְׁפָּט

Hebrew word for "Justice"

Better described than defined

Given what you are due

Relates to judgment, law, a decision

that is fair, equitable, deserving



ṣāḏāq

צדקה

Hebrew word for "Righteousness"
To make right (morally), justice being
enacted (in action)

Relational /social (not private);
expressed in daily life;
in family and society



TSADDIQIM (THE RIGHTEOUS)

“The righteous in the book of Proverbs are by definition those who are willing to disadvantage themselves for the community, while the wicked are those who put their own economic, social, and personal needs ahead of the needs of the community.” (Timothy Keller)

**Justice &
Righteousness**



***Justice (mishpat)* is the idea of giving people what they are due/deserve - whether punishment, protection, or care.**

***The Righteous (sadiqim)* are the ones who practice this in society - they act fairly, generously, with equity.**



Equity

Righteousness

Laws

Love

Integrity

JUSTICE

Mercy

Truth

Charity

Ethics



Exodus 22:21-23

Deuteronomy 1:17; 10:18 - 11:1; 15:1-11; 24:18-20

Proverbs 14:31-34; 19:17; 29:7

Isaiah 1:17; 11:1-15; 58:6-11

Amos 5:22-24

Zech 7:9-10



God's Justice and His righteousness is often characterised by and expressed as a lasting and continued concern for the proper and right treatment of the vulnerable, the oppressed, the marginalised - the least and the last in society.



THE WIDOW &
THE ORPHAN



THE FOREIGNER



THE POOR & NEEDY

'Quartet of the
Vulnerable'



Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)



We are the last, the least, the lost.

We are the spiritually poor and impoverished; hungry and thirsting for something more - something better.

We have all committed injustice and deserve the wages of sin - death.

***God* executed His justice on what we deserved, but *He* took on our injustice; *He* bore the price of our injustice.**

There was divine *retribution* but also divine *restoration*.

***So that* we can be lifted up, fed, nourished by His hand, have a place in His family, live justly as a people of God, and pursue justice for others to make our King known.**



**'Just'
like
Jesus**

FROM DUTY TO DESIRE

A Personal Journey



**'Justice' isn't merely something
God does - it is *who He is*. It is in His
very character and nature.**



STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

Understand God's view of Justice

UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE & DO YOUR RESEARCH

Spend time understanding the justice issue that has gotten your attention

WATCH AND PRAY

Pray always; process with God; ask Him where He is at work and how you can join Him



***Justice begins not on our feet,
but on our knees.***



Lord make me an instrument of Your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith

Where there is quiet despair, hope

Where there is darkness, let me sow light

Where there is sadness, joy

Lord make me your instrument of peace

Instrument of Peace