

## THEOLOGY PROPER (62)

### Communicable Attribute #5- Justice.

In broad terms, this attribute means that God always conforms Himself to His own righteous, holy standards in who He is and in what He does. God will always declare what is right, will always do what is right, will always judge what is right and will always treat beings in the way that is right and perfect. God cannot ever do anything unjust. Everything He does is always right and fair. This attribute negates the possibility of God sanctioning any injustice or misuse of justice.

Chafer points out that this attribute "is a legal term and refers to the essential character of the divine government." He also states that, "Divine justice is exhibited in the fact that righteous laws are given to men, that these laws are sustained by proper sanctions, and that these laws are given an impartial execution. No favoritism is ever indulged, though infinite favor is extended to those who come under the righteous provisions for salvation made possible through Christ's sacrifice for sin." (Vol.1, p.203)

Henry Thiessen observes that God's justice is that judicial phase of God's holiness which is particularly involved in the treatment of His created beings. The justice of God both condemns and saves, it both rewards and punishes (Thiessen, p.130) The Bible is filled with several passages which speak of the justice of God or give us insight into His just character which in turn demands this attribute of justice:

- 1) II Chron.19:7 - The text is clear to point out that God shows no partiality in judicial decisions and judgments. By observing the context of verses 5-6, we can see that this attribute is most definitely communicable.
- 2) Ps.19:9 - All judgments of God are true and righteous, meaning God is a just God.
- 3) Ps.145:17 - God is righteous in all His ways, indicating that everything God is and does will be just.
- 4) Is.45:21 - God is a righteous God, certainly implying God is always a just God.
- 5) Lev.19:36 - god's law demands just judgment because He, Himself, is a just God and a just judge.
- 6) Deut.16:18-20 - Justice is a key part of God's law and just and righteous judgments are to be made.
- 7) Ps.89:14 - There is a close proximity between righteousness and justice and both attributes of God are essential to the Holy Throne of God and critical to any being able to dwell near God's throne.
- 8) Zech.9:9 - When Israel's King comes, He is identified as being just.
- 9) John 5:30 - Jesus Christ clearly lays claim to this attribute and clearly connects it to God the Father in the context of judgment.
- 10) Rom.3:26 - God is a just God and is able to judicially declare that one meets His standard of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ. This judicial decree is because of Christ's righteousness and not our righteousness (I Pet.3:18).