

Biblical Justice, Part 2

As Image-Bearers, We Are to Promote Justice

Genesis 18:17-19; 2 Samuel 8:15; 1 Kings 10:9; Ezekiel 45:9; Matthew 23:23; Deuteronomy 16:19; Isaiah 1:16-17; Jeremiah 22:3, 13; Micah 6:8; Colossians 4:1

Biblical Justice

Definition: "Conformity to God's moral standard as revealed in the Ten Commandments and the Royal Law: 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"¹

Luke 18:18-20; Romans 13:10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8

Distributive Justice

"Impartially rendering judgment, righting wrongs, and meting out punishment for lawbreaking. Reserved for God and God-ordained authorities including parents in the home, elders in the church, teachers in the school, and civil authorities in the state."

1. Do not bear false witness (Ex. 20:16; 23:1)
2. Do not join a wicked person in their attempt to obstruct justice (v. 1b)
3. Do not follow the masses (Ex. 23:2)
4. Do not be partial to the poor or the rich (Ex. 23:3; Lev 19:15*)
5. Do not pervert justice to the needy (23:6)
6. Do not listen to a false charge (Ex. 23:7)
7. Do not kill the innocent (Ex. 23:7)

¹ *Why Social Justice is Not Biblical Justice* by Scott David Allen

8. Do not take a bribe (Ex. 23:8)
9. Do not oppress foreigners (Ex. 23:9)
10. Listen to both sides of testimony (Prov. 18:17)
11. False witnesses should receive the punishment they intended to do to the victim (Deut 19:19).
12. Punishment must fit the crime (Lev. 24:17-22)
13. One of the key reasons that justice is very difficult today is because justice is based on truth, as I mentioned, but today, truth is relative.

Communitive Justice

“Living in right relationship with God and others; giving people their due as image-bearers of God.”

Lev 19:9-10; Lev 19:11ff; Luke 10:30-37; Exodus 23:4-5; Matthew 25:31-46

Unequal outcomes are not unjust

Proverbs 10:4; 21:17; 22:7; 24:30-34