

**“Out of Mere and Perfect Love”:
The Justice and Mercy of God**
The Belgic Confession, Article 20

1. The Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:6-11

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

2. The Doctrine

- a. God is just (Hab. 1:13, Heb. 9:22).

- b. God is merciful (Eze. 18:23, 1 Tim. 2:3-6)

- c. God expressed his perfect justice and mercy in the work of Christ, “out of mere and perfect love” (Deut. 7:8, Psalm 85:10).

3. The Use: Our Response

- a. Faith and Obedience

- b. Rest

- c. Worship