

Exodus 46 – Law: Source of “Fairness”

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 21:12-23:9

Fairness Defined by Language

- Fairness is the quality of making judgments that are **free from discrimination**. (Discrimination not defined, impossible to obtain) <https://www.oxfordjournals.com/abstract/doi/10.1093/oxfordjournals/ajph.a001111>
- Webster’s (1828) defines fairness as honesty, purity, openness, equality of terms <http://webster.dictionaries.com/1828.com/1828/oxfordjournals/ajph.a001111>

Psychology’s Idea of Fairness

- Sameness – Fairness is finding the *average* and applying it to everyone; equality of outcome. (Mt 20:1-16) [Hiring of Laborers]
- Deservedness – Fairness is getting what you deserve; individual accountability. (Lk 16:19-31) [Rich man & Lazarus]
- Need – Fairness maintains that humans have a duty to each other, the more one has the more is demanded for the *common good*; social justice. (Lk 10:25-37) [Good Samaritan]

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/ask-the-expert/2012/05/what-is-fairness>

Sinner's Idea of Fairness

- One criteria by which everyone determines fairness -
Covetousness, foundation of sin
(Ex 20:17; Jn 4:1-5; 1Jn 2:16)
 - Lust (Wrong desire) of the Eyes
 - Lust (Wrong desire) of the Flesh
 - Pride (Me first/only or Increased Self Esteem) of Life
- It's *fair* if I get what I think I deserve; otherwise, it is not *fair* regardless of facts - Characterized by **violence**

Bible's Definition of Fairness

- Fairness not directly defined in the Bible
 - It is presumed in Genesis, in ancient terms
 - Does not correlate with *modern* ideas of fairness
- The Law illustrates *fairness* by its precepts
 - Our text is a brief summation of the Law given in detail in other Scriptures such as Leviticus
 - Discusses how to settle disputes in various situations

Behavior Has Consequences

- Common misperception - there exists a neutral position between sinful and good (God's holiness)
 - Bible is very clear - there is **no** neutral position
 - Person is either in sin (not saved) so that every thought, word and deed is tainted by sin and thus - sinful
 - Or person is saved and has freedom, empowered by God's Spirit, to not sin but otherwise lives in God's Law

Law in Detail

- We will not discuss these rules in detail
 - They are not specifically relevant to our lifestyle today
 - They provided guidelines, adaptable to other situations
 - The Law was never meant to be all inclusive
 - Never God's intention to provide rules *ad nauseam*
- Governments attempt to define laws for every situation making such laws **unfair**, requiring more laws, so forth

Quick Review of Social Relationships

- Cain (savior) murdered Abel (helpless) due to pride
(Ge 4:6-10)
 - Cain "marked" as warning that murder was wrong
 - Cain founded first city which presupposed:
 - Rules for social relationships to control inherent violence
 - Means to enforce such rules - Nephilim (warriors)
 - Violence not controlled - Lamech's boast
 - Cataclysm occurred due to society's near self-destruction

Mosaic Law Presupposes Conflict

- Each of these "rules" involves conflict resolution
 - Prevent escalation of conflict to point of death
 - Give the "weak" a voice, reign in the powerful
 - Applied equally to everyone in the land, even foreigners
- Law had a mission other than just guidance for Israel

Act as a Guide to the Gentiles

- Hebrews understood that they were an example to the Gentiles of God's ways (Lk 4:19-20)
- Israelites understood they were an example of God to the Gentiles during the Monarchy (1K 8:41-43, 59-60)
- This influenced the Gentile nations (Axial Age) preparing the world for Christ's coming (Mt 12:41-42; B= 16:25-27)

Christ Summarized the Law

- Famous Golden Rule (Mt 7:12-14; Lq 5:26-31)
 - Love your neighbor as yourself (Lk 10:10)
 - Taught Jews what they, and us, had missed in the Law
 - Destroyed fairness concept - Balance of "wantas"
- Many Axial Age religions *believed* this Rule but rejected God Who would enable people to live this *when saved*

Paul Discussed the Law

- Paul declared the essence of the Law was in serving others as *in love* (Ro 13:8-10; Ga 5:13-15)
 - Without the Law all behavior devolves into violence because no one is more important than you; therefore, your cause must be just (Hero of own story)
 - Impossible to live the Law without indwelling Spirit, we do not incur righteousness keeping the Law but we live the righteousness of the Law as *new creations* in Christ

James Discussed Love

- James declared that any partiality (discrimination) violates the essence of the Law (Ja 2:8-17)
 - Predisposed toward the poor - Violation
 - Predisposed against the poor - Violation
- Love differentiates between saved and worldly (Ja 4:4)
 - Saved - Regardless of outward circumstances
 - Friends with the world - An enemy of God

John Discussed New Commandment

- Love one another *as Christ loved us* (Jo 13:34-35)
 - The emphasis changed from treating others *as ourselves*
 - To loving each other *as Christ loved us*
- The emphasis is not *us* but Christ
 - Not about how *we* want to be treated (*Balance of wants*) (Mt 5:31-32)
 - But about how Christ treats His people (Jo 15:15-17; 17: 2,21-23)

John Gave Guidelines

- Christians will not make a *practice* of sinning (1Jo 3:9-10)
 - Does not mean we will not sin (1Jo 1:8-10)
 - Means that we will repent when confronted by:
 - Scripture
 - Conscience
 - Others
 - Not practicing righteousness indicates one is lost

Our Differentiation - No Violence

- If we love one another we will not act as Cain (1J- 5:11-15)
 - We will not have sinful anger against the brethren
 - We will not be jealous of others in Christ
- We will act as Christ acted when He was in the world:
 - We will not revile the world
 - We will not return evil for evil
 - We will look to the Him for our relief, not the world

Sinning is Lawlessness (1J- 1:4-8)

- John makes three points very clear which were evident since the beginning of Scripture
 - Sin is lawlessness
 - Satan sinned since the beginning (before creation)
 - Christ's work, Gospel, is to destroy the works of Satan
- Lawlessness begets violence (Why are there increases in violence today? Because rejection of Gospel- freedom!

Summation (1J- 2:7-11)

- This new *commandment* is nothing more than the *old commandment* with a new emphasis
 - Love is not the intimate relationship reserved for:
 - Spouses
 - Children
 - Love is living Christlike in the world as defined by Paul (1C- 13:4-8)

True Love of Christ

Love is patient and kind;
 love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.
 It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
 Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
 Love never ends.

Are You Growing in Christ's Love?

- Marks of one who is not saved (antichrist) (1Jo 4:1-5; 2Jo 1:7-10)
 - Rejects the true nature of Christ (God-Man)
 - Rejects or distorts the true teachings of Christ
 - Does not confess the coming of Christ in the flesh
- Marks of one growing in Christ's grace (1Jo 4:18)
 - As one walks in His Law practicing His love, fear *lessens*
 - Fears denotes punishment, pandering to personal sin

Thus Fairness Not Biblical Guideline

- Fairness essentially seeks a balance between competing wants demanding compromise to keep peace, balance
 - This panders to the flesh (sin), not to righteousness
 - This is the best the lost can achieve leaving them always on the edge of violence (Thus the term: Fragile Peace)
- Christians seeking fairness are immature in the Word seeking to placate their flesh while appearing spiritual