

“Justice And The Nature Of God”
Sermon Series: “True Justice In An Unjust World”

Introduction: “Everything physical and visible is preceded by that which is invisible and spiritual. So, if we want to address the physical and visible, we must first identify the cause which is invisible and spiritual. Therefore, if all we see is what we see, then we are not seeing all there is to be seen.” (Tony Evans)

The Revell Compact Bible Dictionary defines justice as, “Righteousness, action which is in harmony with moral and ethical norms.” This will be our basic, working definition that we elaborate on biblically.

1. There is justice because God is inherently just (Psalm 7:11, 89:14; Revelation 15:3-4). The nature of reality comes from the nature of God. God defines justice-not society. The RCBD says, “God is just, both in the sense that he defines the moral and ethical norms of the universe, and in that he acts in harmony with the standards he has revealed.” I believe that there cannot truly be justice without God, and the concept of justice is one of the strongest reasons to believe in the existence of God.

C.S. Lewis: “If no set of moral ideas were truer or better than any other, there would be no sense in preferring civilized morality to savage morality, or Christian morality to Nazi morality. The moment you say one lot of morals is better than another, you are in fact measuring them by an ultimate standard.”

“When you say there’s too much evil in this world you assume there’s good. When you assume there’s good, you assume there’s such a thing as a moral law on the basis of which to differentiate between good and evil. But if you assume a moral law, you must posit a moral Law Giver, but that’s Who you're trying to disprove and not prove. Because if there’s no moral Law Giver, there’s no moral law. If there’s no moral law, there’s no good. If there’s no good, there’s no evil. What is your question?”- Ravi Zacharias

2. We desire justice because we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

3. We act unjustly because we are sinners (1 Peter 3:18, Genesis 3-4). The world has been unjust since the fall. Our problem is ultimately internal. We need social change, but it must flow out of spiritual change. We have to correctly diagnose the problem to come up with the correct solution.

4. God is a wrathful God who executes righteous judgment upon the unjust because there cannot be true justice without righteous judgment (Revelation 16:5-6, Romans 1:18-32, John 3:36). Sometimes people get offended by the concept of the wrath of God, but it is really impossible to have justice without God righteously judging and punishing all sin.

5. God is also a gracious God who justly justifies the unjust through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:9-26). The concept of justice underlies the gospel. The gospel is fundamentally the reality that we are unrighteous and unjust because we have rebelled against God and broken His Law. Therefore, we deserve the wrath of God. Yet, God in His infinite love, mercy, and grace substituted Himself for us in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the righteous and just life that we have failed to live, but He died the death we deserved to die as our substitute bearing our sins and propitiating the wrath of God. This means that God was just in upholding His Law by punishing sin but also the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Justify means to declare righteous. This is why salvation can be only by grace through faith.

6. He justifies us in order for us to then live just lives (Micah 6:8).

Conclusion: What do you believe about God and justice? Have you been justified through faith in Jesus? Are you striving to live a just life?