



HEBRON

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Dr. Landon Dowden

THE WAY OF WISDOM: JUSTICE FOR THE WOUNDED
PROVERBS 21:3, 13, 15; ISAIAH 1:17

Hubbard: Justice is a cause on which every portion of Scripture is insistent....Given who God is and how He cares for the human family, it would be unthinkable for injustice to be condoned or even tolerated....The call to justice is not only a rational set of instructions to do right wherever one can, but it is a passionate cry to stamp out wrong wherever one finds it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DO JUSTICE?

- **Keller:** The Biblical Gospel of Jesus necessarily and powerfully leads to a passion for justice in the world....We do justice when we give all human beings their due as creations of God. Doing justice includes not only the righting of wrongs, but generosity and social concern, especially toward the poor and vulnerable. This kind of life reflects the character of God. It consists of a broad range of activities, from simple fair and honest dealings with people in daily life, to regular, radically generous giving of your time and resources, to activism that seeks to end particular forms of injustice, violence, and oppression....It means that those who are living comfortable, safe lives, become concerned about the most vulnerable, poor, and marginalized members of our society, and are willing to make long-term personal sacrifices in order to serve their interests, needs, and cause (for the sake of the Gospel.)
 - Mishpat in its various forms occurs more than 200 times in the Hebrew Old Testament.
 - Its most basic meaning is to treat people equitably; giving people what they are due, whether punishment or protection or care. Over and over again, mishpat describes taking up the care and cause of widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor.
 - Mishpat ensues from a person's character; it denotes a moral quality as well as an action.

GOD AND JUSTICE

- He is just. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 97:2; Isaiah 30:18; Daniel 4:37; Revelation 19:2)
- He acts justly. (Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 111:7; 146:7-9; Proverbs 2:8)
- He loves justice. (Isaiah 61:8; Psalm 11:7; Psalm 33:5; Psalm 37:28)
- He hates injustice. (Proverbs. 11:1; 16:8; 18:5)
- He expects His people to be just. (Isaiah 1:17; 51:4; 58:6-7, 10; Deuteronomy 16:19; Jeremiah 22:3; Zechariah 7:9-10; Amos 5:15, 20-24; Micah 6:8; James 1:27; An Example – Job 29:12-17; 31:13-22)



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JUSTICE AND PROVERBS

- One purpose of Proverbs is to provide wisdom for just living. (1:3; 2:9)
- We live in a fallen world where injustice is a reality. (13:23; 17:26; 18:5)
 - Hubbard: Injustice takes many forms and can have any person or segment of society as its target. The Proverbs reflect this range of forms and targets. There is concern for:
 - the poor who are always vulnerable to exploitation. (13:23; 22:16)
 - the innocent (righteous) whose very uprightness lures the wicked to connive against them. (12:5; 17:26; 18:5)
 - The marketplace (13:23; 22:16) and the city gate where courts of law were convened (18:5) and political debates were held (12:5; 17:26) were the chief arenas of injustice.
- Much injustice is intentional and planned. (Proverbs 12:5; 17:23; 19:28; Psalm 10:2-11)
- We are called to actively work toward justice in our world. (Proverbs 21:3; 31:8; 21:13; 14:31; 21:15)
 - Keller: Relief: direct aid to meet immediate physical, material, and economic needs.
 - Development: giving an individual, family, or entire community what they need to move beyond dependency on relief into a condition of economic self-sufficiency (education, job creation and training, job search skills, financial counseling, etc.)
- Those that are unjust will receive justice eventually. (Proverbs 22:8; 22:16)
- We understand and receive justice from the Lord. (Proverbs 28:5; 29:26)

GOD GAVE CHRIST FULL JUSTICE THAT HE MIGHT GIVE US FULL GRACE

- God's judgment is coming for all peoples. (Psalm 96:10, 13)
- God made a way that He could be both just and the justifier. (1 John 4:10; Romans 3:26; John 3:17; 1 Corinthians 5:7b; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- God gave Christ full justice for our sin so that He might give us full grace in Christ's righteousness. (Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9)
- God's judgment for those outside of Christ will be awful, eternal, and just. (John 3:36; Revelation 20:11-12)



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HELPFUL RESOURCES

- International Justice Mission – ijm.org
- Love 146: End Child Trafficking and Exploitation – love146.org
- Hopeforjustice.org
- Compassion.com
- Desire Street Ministries – desirestreet.org
- Georgia Right to Life – www.grtl.org
- *Generous Justice* – Tim Keller
- *Why Social Justice is Not Biblical Justice* – Scott David Allen
- *Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth* – Thaddeus J. Williams
- *The New Reformation* – Shai Linne
- *When Helping Hurts* – Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- The Pursuit of Biblical Justice - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-pursuit-of-biblical-justice/#social-justice-is-not-social-gospel>