

Why Christians Must Pursue Biblically Defined Justice

The concept of social justice has at times been hijacked by the wider culture to stand for causes or to justify actions contrary to the biblical message of human dignity and the reality of sin. Christians rightly decry how the term has been overly politicized and has been taken up to promote causes that degrade true human flourishing and the common good in our society. Some calls for social justice reduce all of human existence to power dynamics or push radical social agendas that are designed to normalize hyper individualism and complete moral autonomy. But we also must be honest that the gospel message has likewise been hijacked by some—especially in the past—to support or even promote the horrors of slavery, segregation, and the continuation of unjust policies that seek to define someone's value and dignity based on their skin color or background. Injustice is an affront to God and His character no matter where it is found.

The Christian moral tradition clearly illustrates that the gospel message is the good news that Jesus Christ lived the life we were created to live and died the death we deserved to die in order to give us everlasting life in relationship to God for eternity. It also makes clear that this message of new life in Christ contains wide-reaching and life-altering social implications for all of society which is rooted in the God-given dignity of all people (Gen. 1:26-28). The personal aspects of the biblical ethic directly inform the social aspects because we are individuals living in community with one another. We each bear immense responsibility for pursuing truth and upholding justice in our society.

As new creations in Christ, we are to model for a watching world what Jesus meant when He called His people to "love our neighbor as ourselves" (2 Cor. 5:17; Matt. 22:37-39). Overlooking our neighbors or passively allowing injustices to be perpetrated is completely contrary to this command by God to stand for the vulnerable and downtrodden in our communities as we seek to biblically define justice wherever injustice is found.

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RACIAL
RECONCILIATION
SUNDAY

**For he is our peace,
who made both groups one
and tore down the
dividing wall of hostility.**

EPHESIANS 2:14 (CSB)

SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

February 25, 2024

www.sappony1773.org

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 193 "One Day"

Hymn No. 145 "Alas & Did My Savior"

Missionary Prayer Calendar Judy Houchins

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn No. 140 "Down At the Cross"

Doxology

Scripture Mark 14:43-52

Sermon Rev. Mike Dickey

"Fearless"

Hymn No. 300 "Without Him"

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

The children will be collecting toothbrushes/combs/hair brushes for the month of March for The Shoe Box Ministry.

OYSTER/FISH DINNER: On Sat. April 6 from 4:30 to 6:30pm Newville Baptist Church will host a dinner fundraiser at Camp Kehukee. Proceeds will go to needed repairs at Camp Kehukee. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children and must be purchased in advance. Call 804-731-2812 or 804-733-2010 for tickets of information.

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Be sure to check out our Daily Devotional on our website: sapponybaptist1773.org

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: Mark 14:53-65