

Becoming a Just Person

We can know we are living in a right relationship with God, and that we reflect his character in us when we act justly toward others.

(Micah 6:8, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:14-19)

A sign that we have a right relationship with God is that our behavior is changing and conforming to his moral character. When we seek to do justice because we understand that God is a just God, then we demonstrate our commitment to knowing his ways and obeying him.

- 1.) Does your character always reflect that of Jesus Christ?
- 2.) What changes do you need to make to your life to become more of a just person like the Lord Jesus?

The scripture commands that we love one another and love our enemies, but it also insists that we judge all things rightly, without favoritism.

(Galatians 3:28)

Since God has shown us mercy without favoritism or partiality—meaning that he has shown us mercy based upon his grace and not our good or bad deeds—he insists that we also treat others the same.

- 1.) How can your behavior be like the Lord Jesus' in your relationship to others?
- 2.) Offering others the good news about Jesus is a way of showing God's fairness. How can you demonstrate who Christ is to others?

Since God, through the Lord Jesus will judge all men rightly and fairly, we must evaluate ourselves right to see if we have a right relationship with God.

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The scripture teaches that certain people are condemned to eternal punishment while other people are blessed with eternal life. The basis of judging whether we are condemned or saved rests solely on receiving the free gift of salvation from our sins paid for by the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross.

- 1.) Have you received Jesus' payment for your sins?

God's Character & Man's Ethics, Study #5 Justice and Being Just

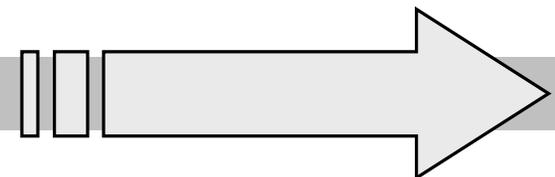
According to a 2006 study by the USAID office, almost one-fourth of Mongolians believe that corruption is acceptable for a society. In fact, the report notes that 90 percent of those surveyed reported that corruption is commonplace.

The Bible has a great deal to say about the issue of corruption, specifically when it discusses the idea of *Justice*. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments the Bible condemns all forms of bribery and requires that those who would call themselves Christian must be people who are free of corruption—we must be a *just* people.

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines justice as “the practice of what is right and just” in both law and relationships. God's justice is defined as his “fair and impartial treatment of all people.” Therefore, *Justice*, in the biblical sense is that quality of relationship whereby we deal equitably and morally with all people in all circumstances without showing partiality or favoritism.

Justice requires that evil be punished and good be rewarded. Yet we often find that we are capable of both evil and good at the same time. Therefore, how are our lives to be rightly judged? Because no person is fully good, God would be just to condemn every person. Yet he has instead chosen to give some a salvation of eternal life.

In this study we will look at God's character of justice, and learn how we can become more like our Just Savior, Jesus Christ.



God, the Just God

Justice is the practice of all that is right and just. God's character is just; this means that God always practices what is right and just.

(Genesis 18:25, Job 34:12, Proverbs 21:3)

We've seen in previous studies that God character is always true, faithful, good, and righteous. God's good character is always perfectly dependable. Thus when God judges a person, or takes action to discipline us, we can know that he always acts rightly, with justice.

- 1.) How do you sometimes view the actions of others?
- 2.) When you see wrong in others, do you see the same traits in yourself?

Justice according to the Bible is that which is fair and impartial. The Bible describes God as "no respecter of persons." This means that God does not show favoritism or partiality.

(Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 16:19-20; II Chronicles 19:6-7; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11)

God evaluates or judges all people equally and fairly according to the same standards. He does not have one standard of behavior for different people, nations, or cultures. He does not show favoritism based upon behavior or nationality. God judges all people by the standard of his character, and acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ.

- 1.) Sometimes we want special treatment because of things we have done, or not done. Yet everyone at sometime believes they deserve special treatment. Describe ways this is right or wrong in your view.
- 2.) Should a person receive special treatment such as eternal life if they have lived a moral life, but rejected God's only Son as their Savior?

God's justice is also his fair and righteous judgment whereby he condemns some people for their sin, and he forgives others.

(Romans 9:14-16, 22-24, Revelation 16:7)

As the only righteous and just judge, God has the right to judge whether we will be condemned or receive eternal life. What responsibility do you think this truth requires of you?

Jesus, the Just Savior

Jesus practiced all that was right and just. As the image of the invisible God, all of Jesus' thoughts, feelings, and actions were always right and just.

(John 5:30, Colossians 1:15, 19-20)

Since Jesus Christ is the Son of God in human form, the very nature and character of God are found in him. Jesus is the perfect reflection of God's behavior toward man.

- 1.) Though it would be right and just for God to condemn us for our sin, Jesus instead chose to take our punishment on the cross. How do you think this was just?

Jesus Christ judged all men fair and impartially. He never showed favoritism in judgment to anyone. Jesus was able to judge justly because he saw what was in the hearts of men.

(John 2:24-25, Romans 3:21-26)

It is impossible to deceive or persuade the Lord Jesus to do something that is unjust or wrong. Since he knows all things, and sees the hearts of men, he cannot be fooled or negotiated with. He therefore judges us according to all that is true about us.

- 1.) Think about your life, experiences, and behavior. How do you think that God judges your life?
- 2.) Will God judge you based upon your behavior or upon Jesus' behavior?

Since Jesus is the Just Savior, he is also the Just Judge. He has the authority to condemn those who reject him, and he has the authority to forgive those who embrace him.

(Matthew 12:18, John 9:39, 5:22-23, Romans 2:16, II Timothy 4:1)

Though Jesus came as our Savior to take the penalty for our sins on the cross, he is also our judge. Since he took our penalty for us, he has the right to determine who will receive the salvation that he purchased on our behalf.

1. How have you responded to the payment Jesus made for your sin?

