

TO STAND FOR JUSTICE IN A GODLESS SOCIETY (21st Nov. 2021)

Micah 6:6-8; Romans 12:1-2

The Israelites thought if they brought the right kind of sacrifices, God wouldn't care how they lived. In Micah 6: 6-7, the nation attempted to placate God but in verse 8, Micah tells the nation what God requires from them.

What does God require? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. In order to **act justly**, we want to ensure that the rights of others are protected. To **love mercy, because** justice without mercy can be cold and unresponsive. To **walk humbly with God**-looking at people and things through the eyes of Christ.

In which areas of our common life is justice begging for action?

1. Alleviation of poverty in all forms and shapes.

* Covid Vaccine Inequality.

*Famine and the effects of local wars and global warming

Action*You can team up with Charities that are set up to alleviate suffering and poverty like Tear Fund, Compassion UK and Open Doors by giving, praying and being physically involved.

2. Social Contracts

When you employ labour, give them their due and don't move the goal posts by reneging on your word- especially where a job is completed in less time than you anticipated.

3. Religious persecution.

Consider Open Doors report relating to Countries of the world like North Korea, Northern Nigeria, India, etc. Women are raped and abducted and churches are burned. Christians are charged to court and imprisoned for no just reasons while their rights are denied. The UK is not exempt from Christian persecution.

***Action:** Speak up for those without voices, either through mass action, writing or talking to our MPs, cooperating with organisations like Open doors, Compassion UK, Christian Institute to name a few. You can pray and also give. Doing nothing is not an option.

4. Racial inequality. Racial slurs can no longer be passed off as ordinary banter as shown in the recent Yorkshire cricket club saga. What is banter to someone is a cause of suicidal thought to another.

Godly advice on how we can do justly and walk humbly(wisely) with our God.

Romans 12:1-2: Do not be **conformed** any longer to the pattern of this world. We can dare to be different and for us to do so, we need to consciously evaluate where we are being influenced by the world's ideas and mind-set. We must seek out those stereotypes that have become ingrained in us and now constitute unchristian blind spots, which lead us to say and do things which hurt others without thinking.

Romans 12:2 **demands we Submit to be transformed.** Read this verse as, "Keep on not conforming" and "Keep on being transformed."

What Justice demands.

Justice demands that no one receives preferential treatment because of the colour of their skin, social or financial status. It mandates equal opportunities for all.

Justice, biblical justice demands we do not pay evil with evil, injustice with injustice. We must see situations and people with the eyes of Jesus Christ.

Questions for application.

1. As a church we support Open Doors; Tear Fund, Compassion UK, The Christian Institute and others, as individuals. Do we think we're doing enough?
2. What advantages, disadvantages and stereotypes have shaped your thinking and character? What is God showing you about yourself as you read His Word? After your frank evaluation, the word of God tells you to submit to the living Christ and ask Him to transform you into who He desires you to be.
3. Do you want to ask how to get involved with
Open Doors? – see Paul Bailey
Compassion UK? – see Peter Cooper
Christian Institute and Christian Concerns? – see Iyabo Agbelusi
Tear Fund? – see Susie Ryan