

Real God: Week 6 – The Justice of God

JUSTICE IS NOT SOMETHING GOD HAS. JUSTICE IS SOMETHING GOD IS. – A.W. Tozer

1. God is just.

Psalm 97:1-2 (ESV) *The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! ² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.*

*“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?”
–C.S. Lewis*

2. The revelation of God’s justice.

- Natural order. (Romans 1:18-20)
- The human heart. (Romans 2:15-16)
- God’s role as judge. (John 5:22)
- Believers (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
- Unbelievers. (Hebrews 11:27)
- Through Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,*

Romans 2:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.*

Romans 4:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

3. Response to God’s justice: Not destruction, but defense and discipleship.

I. Mankind attempts to destroy God’s justice:

Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV) *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV) ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

II. False leaders attempt to destroy God's justice:

2 Cor. 2:13-15 (ESV) ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

2 Peter 2:1-3 (ESV) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

III. Defense:

1 John 1:8-10 (ESV) ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Matthew 23:23 (ESV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

IV. Discipleship:

Philippians 4:8 (ESV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Micah 6:8 (ESV) He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Application: Follow up questions.

- How do I personally define God's justice? Do I struggle with God being just? Why?
- How do I balance God's love and justice?
- How can I make sure I am defending God's justice and teaching (discipleship) it to others?