

Notes:



Sierra Community Church August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020- Dan Wilvers

## ***Wisdom Cares About Justice***

### **Proverbs**

Proverbs 3:

<sup>17</sup>Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed.

<sup>19</sup>By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; <sup>20</sup>by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. (See Jeremiah 10:12)

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.

<sup>28</sup>Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you. <sup>29</sup>Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you. <sup>30</sup>Do not accuse anyone for no reason—when they have done you no harm. <sup>31</sup>Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways. <sup>32</sup>For the Lord detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence.

Proverbs 11:

<sup>10</sup>When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. <sup>11</sup>Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

Proverbs 19:

<sup>17</sup>He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 29:

<sup>7</sup>The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

## 1. Why do we need justice?

By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; <sup>20</sup>by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.  
Proverbs 3:19,20

**Martin Luther King Jr.** was put in jail in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963 because he was protesting against segregation. As a result a number of white pastors wrote an article in the newspaper in Birmingham, saying,

*"How can this man call people to disobey any of the civil laws?"*  
In his Letter from Birmingham Jail in 1963, Dr. King wrote,

"One may well ask: 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. *How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust?* A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

**Friedrich Nietzsche** said, "If there is no God, there can't be anything wrong with trying to grab power over other people. He says the people in this world who protest against power plays are themselves simply trying to get power over the people who have more power over them, and they're doing it through their protest."

## 2. What is justice?

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. <sup>28</sup>Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"— when you already have it with you.  
Proverbs 3:27,28

[God] upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, <sup>8</sup>the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup>The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.  
Psalm 146:7-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup>Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8,9

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?  
James 2:15,16

## 3. Who does justice?

When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. <sup>11</sup>Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.  
Proverbs 11:10,11

## 4. The key to doing justice.

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."

Proverbs 19:17

He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Proverbs 14:31

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:37-40