

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV


grow
deeper
in Christ

Choosing Justice...

AND WHAT DOES THE LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus boldly announced his mission: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Jesus announced good news for the whole world, with particular attention to the poor, the captive, the incapacitated, and the oppressed. Jesus persistently allied himself with untouchables as well as the voiceless. In both word and deed, he condemned discrimination against lepers, Gentiles, Samaritans, tax collectors, shepherds, women, and children. Compassion, mercy, and

justice are at the heart of the mission of God the Father, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and incarnated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Justice is joining God in making things right

Justice is the work of God confronting and overcoming evil and sin, both individually and systemically in our world. We, the people of God, are commanded to join God in this work, restoring God’s righteous purpose and shalom for creation and the human family. For the follower of Christ, injustice is not an abstraction but a reality that we must identify, name, and intentionally address. In justice we ask, “Why does this brokenness exist? How do we address the causes?”

- How does this definition of justice line up with your understanding?
- Who are the marginalized, voiceless, oppressed, and invisible in your neighborhood? City? World?

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- How does this definition of justice line up with your understanding?
- Who are the marginalized, voiceless, oppressed, and invisible in your neighborhood? City? World?

- How are you joining God's work to make things right in our world? How is God calling you to go further in your pursuit of justice?

Scripture

As we explore the Bible, we find that compassion, mercy, and justice are inseparable. Their meanings are woven together, belong together, and illuminate each other. Compassion is identifying with and joining in the suffering of others. Mercy is extending God's unconditional love. Justice is joining God in making things right.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:31; 4; 6:7, 9-10:32;
Exodus 3:7-8
Leviticus 19:33-34
Deuteronomy 6:10-12
Jeremiah 22:15-16
Isaiah 1:16-17; 58:3
Amos 5:10; 6:4-7
Micah 6:8; 7:19

New Testament

Matthew 6:10; 25:35-36, 40
Mark 12:29-31
Luke 4:18-19; 7:22; 16:19-31
John 3:16
1 Corinthians 15:58
Revelation 21:4; 21:22-22:2

Do justice

- Get to know the marginalized in your community. Spend time at a homeless shelter, a state or county run medical facility, a domestic violence shelter, with a tutoring program, at an ESL class, or...
- Pray for God to open your eyes to their story and how God is at work in their lives. How do you see God's image in the oppressed? Be aware that God does not identify others simply as needy, but deeply loves them and delights in their dignity and value.
- Volunteer for a day in your local juvenile justice system, even if it is just to witness how court is run and how children participate in the system. Pray for each child as they go through the court proceedings.
- Pray the newspaper—read the newspaper and pray for all of the injustices you read (lack of healthcare, racism, violence, poverty, war).
- Utilize the Covenant resource titled "Love Mercy, Do Justice: Responding Faithfully to God's Call" with a group from your church or community.



This Growing Deeper practice is part of a series. To learn more about these resources, or to download this and other practices, visit CovChurch.org. To order copies of the Growing Deeper Practices, visit CovBooks.com.

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