

"Social Justice: The Righteousness Wisdom Produces"

Proverbs 2:1-10

November 17, 2024

Introduction

Defining Righteousness

I. Wisdom is the Source of Righteousness (Proverbs 2:1-10)

Wisdom is indeed a gift (but not automatic) from the Lord

Righteousness is a result of wisdom

Justice is an inseparable part of Righteousness

II. Justice: A Characteristic of Righteousness

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous man runs into it and is safe." (18:10)

"The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life..." (10:11)

"And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Defining Justice

*"I (wisdom) walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice..."
(8:20)*

"The thoughts of the righteous are just..." (12:5)

"When justice is done it is a joy to the righteous..."(21:15)

Justice *is* about relationship so it is indeed social. Thus the phrase **social justice**.

III. What Doing Justice Looks Like

1) Care and Concern for the most Vulnerable

2) Thinking Biblically about Our Mission

*"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of those who are destitute; Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy"
Proverbs 31:8-9*

*"Israel was charged to create a culture of social justice for the poor and vulnerable because it was the way the nation could reveal God's glory and character to the world. Deuteronomy 4:6-8 is a key text where Israel is told they should keep God's commands so that all nations...(would) be attracted to God's wisdom and glory."
(Keller)*

3) Being Generous in All We Do

“Doing justice not only the righting of wrongs, but generosity and social concern, especially toward the poor and vulnerable.” (Keller)

IV. New Testament Implications for the Church

1) Social Justice is a call of the gospel.

“I didn’t shrink back from declaring the truth...shepherd the flock of God...fierce wolves...the word will build you up...you know that my hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me...In all things ...by working hard this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:17-28

“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and grace was upon them all. There was not a needy one among them...proceeds (were) distributed to each as any had need.” Acts 4:33-36 (see also; Dt. 15:4)

2) We Must Redefine Neighbor

3) The Full Effects of the Cross

Conclusion

At the cross, Jesus introduces us to how His justice and mercy will have their way. The redemption we experience from the cross will flow from him through us to a world in need of a savior. He calls us to play a part in that story of redemption. A story that speaks to sin and its effects, on individuals, groups and society. It also demonstrates what wisdom, justice and righteousness look like and how we are to live it out in this broken world that **He** will eventually make right.