

Understanding Social Justice Through A Biblical Perspective

Sharon Elander, week 3 notes

JUSTICE IN CULTURE

1. A worldview is how a person sees and understands all aspects of the world
 - The merging of worldviews leads to incompatibility in life
2. The problem: both social and Biblical justice agree that society is broken and needs to change.
3. The fundamental reason it's broken
 - BJ: Sin
 - SJ: Oppression by dominant groups
4. Identity
 - BJ: We all are made in the image of God
 - SJ: based on group affiliation determined by identity markers for oppressed or oppressive status
5. Rights
 - Negative Rights: protect from harm
 - Positive Rights: add to lifestyle
6. Charity
 - BJ: Called to always give and help the needy
 - SJ: Unnecessary as government will ensure equity
7. ISJ agenda doesn't match with the prevailing concerns of most Americans
8. Social justice goes to Church
 - Sacred Secular Split: dividing a ministry or a person's lifestyle into parts, one part for God, one part for culture.
 - Without Biblical knowledge you lose God's wisdom on how to act in culture. Without participation you lose God's power to change culture.
9. How social justice slid into some churches (2 Cor 11:14)
 1. Trojan horse
 2. Fear of being accused of sexism, racism, homophobic...
 3. Teaching gospel of grace only
 4. Lack of scriptural knowledge
10. Christians are to be the salt, not sugar in the world (Matt 5: 17)

11. We must protect scripture including the gospel, which is not works based
 1. The gospel is not mans to give. It is God's to give and mans to share. We don't set qualifications, Christ did that on the cross.
 2. God loves justice and God loves the gospel, but they are NOT the same thing.

Week 3 Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think so many people assert they are Christians but don't live out a BWV?
2. If you were to write one sentence to identify who you are, what would you write?
3. How would your neighbor or your Facebook friends identify you?
4. Explain the difference between negative and positive rights?
5. How can your understanding of these two types of rights help you navigate conversations?
6. Have you ever been in a situation where someone spoke poorly of the church or Christians? How did you respond? How would you liked to have responded?
7. Sharon responded in an ungodly way to the BLM riots of 2020. Has something in current culture caused you to respond ungodly?
8. How can you prepare to not allow social justice issues to affect your walk with Christ?
9. Do you recall a time when someone attached a condition to the gospel?
10. As a member of the Church, how can you take a stand against injustices in the world yet not be a SJ advocate?