

Understanding Social Justice Through A Biblical Perspective

Sharon Elander, week 4 notes

Living out Biblical Justice

1. The USA is now a post Christian nation.

Without God and the Bible, right and wrong are merely a preference, not a foundation for life and a lasting community.

2. Our task isn't to tear down western culture, but to reform it to better reflect the truth and justice of God's kingdom.

3. Christians need to be developing culture, or others will.

"The best way to drive out a bad worldview is by offering a good one, and Christians need to move beyond criticizing culture to creating culture. That is the task God originally created humans to do and in the process of sanctification we are meant to recover that task...In every calling we are culture creators offering up our work as service to God,"
Nancy Pearcey.

4. The Game Plan:

- Offer *tsedaqah* justice without compromising or shying away from stating truth.
- Ask, "By what standard is that just? God's or man's?"
 - ISJ has awakened an innate sense of wrongness for many, regardless of faith.
- Review your ministries for social justice influence.
- Find your sphere of influence and advocate for Biblical justice:
 - Teen pregnancy, race discrimination, school curricula, etc.
 - We are the body of Christ with many parts (1 Cor 12:12)
- Fact check, fact check, fact check!
 - Christians are to be bearers of truth (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Be a lifelong learner and train your children as well.
 - Christianity is an intellectually valid choice.
- Be patient.
 - See Onesimus in the book of Philemon.

5. Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10).

- Be the ONE: everyone is called in some way, shape or form to stand up for Biblical justice and create culture.
- False religions say:
'Fear not; trust in god and he will see that none of the things you fear will happen to you.'

On the contrary, real religion says, "Fear not; the things that you are afraid of are quite likely to happen to you, but they are nothing to be afraid of."

6. Politics and Biblical Justice

- Jeremiah 1:10 says: I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.
- Christians wanting to impact culture with a BWV through the political arena deserve our respect and support.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you experienced friends, family, or Christian compromising Biblical authority in the name of social justice? How did you respond?
2. In the last five years, has the American church been politically pro-active or reactive?
3. Name the six commands of God to Jeremiah with regard to his charge to reform national politics, and compare what ratio of those 6 commands were negative and which were positive.
4. Is it Biblical or political to stand up against schools that support a child's right to self-identify their sex without parental authority? Or to vote for a candidate who has knowingly not supported parental rights for minor children with gender dysphoria?
5. 90% of all children that face gender dysphoria when treated with love yet raised as their biological sex, naturally affirm their biological sex, by the age of 18. Suicide rates for the adult transgender population which has undergone some form of medical "therapy" is approximately 40%.¹

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says there is a time for everything... In this time of moral decay, what is God calling you to do to represent His justice?

¹ <https://www.hrc.org/news/new-study-reveals-shocking-rates-of-attempted-suicide-among-trans-adolescen>