



BECAUSE GOD IS . . . JUST CROSSWAYS CHURCH IN HOMES – 28 JULY 2024

Main Idea: “Because God is . . . JUST”

Introduction

Deuteronomy 32:4 says this about God: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

Justice is an essential attribute of God. He can’t *not* do what is just and right. Justice is intrinsic to his very identity.

What Does the Bible Say About God’s Justice?

1. God’s justice is retributive (he gives people what they deserve – Ezekiel 18:25–32; Romans 2:1–11)
2. God’s justice is reparative (he repairs and restores victims of injustice – Psalm 9:7–12; Psalm 146:5–9; Luke 18:1–8)
3. God’s justice is good news for the world (Psalm 96:10–13; Revelation 19:1–3)
4. God’s justice is part of the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:10; Isaiah 53:4–12; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21)
5. God’s justice is now *and* not yet (Ecclesiastes 3:16–17; 2 Peter 3:9–13; Revelation 20:11–15)

What Does the Bible Say About Justice Among God’s People?

1. Because God is just, he expects his people to do God’s justice (Genesis 18:17–19; Deuteronomy 16:20; Jeremiah 7:5–7)
2. God does NOT want his people to participate in his *retributive* justice (Proverbs 20:22; Matthew 5:38–41; Romans 12:17–21)
3. God DOES want his people to participate in his *reparative* justice (Deuteronomy 16:19; Leviticus 19:15; Psalm 112:5; Isaiah 1:16–17; Jeremiah 22:3; Ezekiel 22:29; James 2:1–9)

Because God is JUST, How Can We Respond This Week?

1. THANK God for his justice. Thank Jesus for dealing with our sin and making us righteous, for satisfying God’s justice on the cross so that there is NO condemnation for us (Roman 8:1–4) and we do not need to fear God’s judgement.
2. TRUST God for his justice. Here and now, things might not always seem “fair” (Ecclesiastes 3:16–17), but we can entrust ourselves “to the one who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23).
3. ASK God for his *retributive* justice. Ask that his Kingdom would come and his will be done here on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). Wherever we see injustice this week, pray and wait patiently, knowing that final justice is coming and God will call all to account (Revelation 20:11–15).
4. PARTICIPATE with God in his *reparative* justice. Be honest in our dealings, and hold others accountable to honesty in theirs. Show no partiality: treat every person as an equal, as an image of God (Genesis 1:26–28; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 22:2). Stand up for the rights of the poor, of orphans, widows, immigrants, and other vulnerable people. Where we see oppression, speak out against it, and take steps to elevate those who have been pushed down.