

“Liberty and Justice for All” pt. 2

Amos 5:24

Three Foundations for Exploring Justice

1. Justice is at the heart of who God is and what He expects.

As the prophet surveys the landscape of the nation of Israel, he sees prosperity – but he also sees disparity -- injustice was rampant.

2. Injustice is the result of sin against both the nature of God and love of our fellowman.

If we do not understand and address injustice on the level of sin, we treat the symptoms but never the root of the problem. Amos understood well the issues of Israel were not simply economic prosperity, social unrest, outside threats, military conflict or political ineptitude. Fundamentally the problem was spiritual – the problem was sin.

3. The failure to understand and practice justice brings about grave consequences.

There is always a cost to injustice. The cost is seen across the strata of society and eventually felt in every aspect of a culture:

Morally there is confusion

Culturally there is a degradation

Politically, there is a lack of confidence and mistrust

Socially, there is greater polarization and disparity

Nationally, there is an undercutting of law and order internally and a weakening militarily

Spiritually there is complacency and an accompanying capitulation

A Perfect Justice?

Yes and No

The imperfection of our justice lies in us.

Perfect justice can only be found in a perfect God.

We need to grasp two things:

1. The seeds of injustice are deeply implanted in each of us – it is our sin nature.
2. The path to our ability to move toward a more perfect justice is to look toward the greatest injustice of all time.

The Perfect Injustice

Paths to Justice

- Justice can be coerced (forced)
- Justice can be brought about through shame (social pressure/public opinion)
- Justice can be brought about through reason/argument
- Justice can be brought about through behavioral modification
- Justice is brought about through a transformation of heart.

The Greatest Injustice