

“Liberty and Justice for All”
The Liberty / Justice Paradox (pt. 1)
Amos 5:24

Liberty and Justice -- Worth Exploring?

My answer to this question is YES!

1. It is important to God.
2. It is related to the matter of righteousness.
3. It affects how we live right now.
4. It impacts our future.
5. It will affect how I treat my spouse, kids, boss, employee, neighbor.
6. It affects us on a national level (our way of life).
7. It impacts our destiny.

When nations become casual and unconcerned about the issue of liberty and justice, enslavement nearly always follows.

- They are enslaved to their sin affecting their spirituality
- They are enslaved to cultural decline
- They are enslaved by internal strife (unity is destroyed – houses divided do not stand)
- They are enslaved by outside interests (conquered and/or controlled)

The Secular or Sacred Paradox

Justice and liberty have been divorced from biblical and spiritual foundations -- too many Christians have bought into the idea that solutions for social issues can and should be relegated to the secular culture.

Christians have too often remained silent on “social issues:

In part, this is the result of bullying.

It is also the result of a theological disconnect.

Silence in the face of what are certainly pressing and significant problems and concerns on a social level is both glaring ignorance of what the Bible teaches and a shirking of our responsibility as those who bear the name of Christ.

Biblical Foundations For Justice and Liberty

Leviticus 19 – “Love your neighbor as yourself” (19:18)

Leviticus 25 – Sabbatical year and Year of Jubilee

Isaiah 1 – “cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widows cause.” 1:18-19

Isaiah 58 – Fasting that God desires – act in behalf of the oppressed, hungry, homeless, and afflicted. (58:6-10)

Jeremiah 22 – do justice .. deliver the oppressed, defend the resident alien, fatherless and widow. (22:2-3)

Amos 5 – Let justice roll down like mighty waters! (5:24)

Micah 6:8 – “... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Matthew 25:31-46 – “... as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” (25:40)

Luke 4:18-19 -- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s

favor.”

A Christian Responsibility

What are the biblical directives regarding the matters of social responsibility:

- Liberty (oppressed and imprisoned)
- Care for the poor, homeless, hungry, thirsty, and infirm
- Special attention to orphans and widows
- Concern for aliens (sojourners and immigrants)
- Justice -- Impartiality and fair treatment in courts (society in general)

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