

Freedom: The Unexpected Logic of Blood-Bought Liberty

Social Justice v. Social Gospel

Exodus 21:22–23:19
Pages 62 in Church Bible
The Lord's Day Morning
Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 20, 2019

Social Justice: The just requirement in God's Word to love our neighbors and humbly seek their good by equally treating and protecting them under the rule of law. Social justice normally involves a generous, intelligent, and voluntary redistribution of wealth. True Christians seek social justice as a *consequence* of experiencing God's grace of justification (being declared righteous upon faith alone in Christ alone):

Faith → Justification + Social Justice

Social Gospel: The false teaching that pursuing social justice earns the favor of God and obligates him to respond by awarding the social justice advocate with eternal life. Because the social gospel seeks social justice as a *condition* for justification, it fosters human pride and replaces the true gospel by denying the need for the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross:

Social Justice → Justification

Examples of Social Justice in Exodus 21:22–23:19

1. Legal protection for the poorest of the poor (21:1–16; 26,27).
2. Compensation for injury (21:18,19).
3. Legal status for unborn babies, the weakest of the weak (21:22–24).
4. Proportionate punishment must fit (and not exceed) the crime (21:24).
5. Protection from an unsafe environment due to negligence (21:28–22:6).
6. Protection from a breach of contract (22:7–15).
7. Protection of women from sexual abuse (22:16,17).
8. Regulation of harmful sexual relations (22:16,17,19).
8. Protection and compassion for immigrants (22:21).
9. Protection of widows (husbandless) and orphans (fatherless) (22:22–24).
10. Protection from predatory lending that exploits the poor (22:25–27).
11. Protection from a corrupt justice system that favors the majority or the wealthy, or is prejudiced against the poor, the immigrant, or racial minorities (22:1–9).

Application

1. _____ on marriage and sexual ethics.
2. _____ injustices against unborn children.
3. _____ and/or support families who do.
4. _____ women in crisis pregnancies.

- Check out “Chosen Children—Orphan Care and Foster Care Ministry of First Bible Church” on Facebook.
- Check out “Sav-A-Life” Pregnancy Resource Center at decaturpregnancy.com or huntsvilleprc.org.