

:: Summary

"The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory." (Ps. 97:1-6)

This God, the One thunders from heaven, for Whom lightning is but a tool, this God calls his people to a love of neighbor, of widow, of orphan, of stranger, of poor, of marginalized through acts of justice and righteousness. God calls us to standards of interpersonal behavior that are just and right. But he also calls us to do our part in his redemptive work to create a world where every human being flourishes.

Justice is about interpersonal acts of righteousness, and it is also about pointing to the core problems of injustice and taking godly action so that a just society rooted in God's righteousness takes shape. It is not only feeding the poor; it is asking why they are poor. In this way the Church participates in the redemptive work of God.

:: Share

Describe a cause or organization you have been a part of or supported that works for the good of others

:: Explore and Discuss | Isaiah 58:1-10, James 1:27 and Notes

Why is it important that the biblical view of justice is supremely rooted in the character of God?

In Isaiah 58:1-10 and James 1:27, why does God tie worship to justice?

Read Psalm 82:2-4, Lev. 19:15, Is. 1:17 and Prov. 31:8-9. What are the verbs God uses to call his people to action? Who are the objects of this action?

How would you describe God's passion for justice based upon these verses? Describe the Church's responsibility today for fulfilling these commands.

:: Apply it to Your Life

Why is important for you to not only act justly in personal relationships but to be part of something much larger than yourself that promotes social righteousness and justice?



What is the Lord saying to you personally through Isaiah 58:1-10?

:: Pray

Pray "Thy Kingdom come" prayers for justice in the world.

Pray for each person in your group to be inspired to do their part in the justice work of God.

:: Notes

If you want to better understand the societal movements around justice, especially those happening right now, you are highly encouraged to download and read Tim Keller's paper (link below).

["A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory"](#) By Timothy Keller

This 30-page (but very readable) paper is an outstanding overview of biblical justice in contrast to a number of different secular justice positions including the dominant theme we are hearing in our current debates.

