

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

We tend to think of justice in terms of political & judicial systems instituted to establish & enforce laws. Most people want to live in a just society where freedom & liberty are distributed equitably. Two significant barriers impede the establishment of such a society—the sinful human heart & disagreement on how far freedom should extend. It is exceedingly difficult to uphold & administer justice when there is no consensus about what a "just society" actually looks like.

In simple terms, justice means fair behavior or treatment. It requires a standard of morality to define the scope of personal freedom. Receiving justice means getting what is deserved. Administering justice means giving what is deserved. Though human justice always falls short of perfection, it is still an altogether necessary & worthwhile societal pursuit.

God has established justice to bring order to society & remind us that there is a standard of right & wrong to which all will be held accountable. He is the only perfect arbiter of justice. One day He will judge each person's words, thoughts & deeds according to His perfect moral standard. God expects His people to live justly.

What undergirds & defines your sense of justice—God's Word or your own perception of right & wrong? Do you see the maintaining & refining of a just society as a personal duty from the Lord? Have you considered the relationship between freedom, order and the work of carrying out the Great Commission?

Prayerfully reflect on the ways in which justice has rightly & wrongly been administered throughout your life. Ask God to help you understand justice from His perfect perspective. Express thankfulness that He is the final authority & arbiter of justice.