



Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

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# Sovereignty of God

The Sovereignty of God means that God is powerful and authoritative to the extent of being able to override all other powers and authorities.

# **Overcoming Injustice**

Peter responded to injustice with personal violence (he cut off Malchus ear at the arrest of Jesus). Jesus corrected and protected Peter and the disciples from this potential disaster.

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### Romans 12:19-20

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

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## **Overcoming Injustice**

- 1. We are troubled with our God-given desire for justice until it is satisfied
- 2. Spiritual force overcomes our injustice by transferring it to God
- 3. Overcome is not overlook

# Passing the Ball of Injustice

It is strange how once the ball of injustice is passed to the believer, it is no longer about the one who passes it but the one who receives it. The one who passes it seems to walk off scott-free while we have to live with the mental anguish of it all...

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# Passing the Ball of Injustice

...It was no longer about Mr. Christianson's wrong but about how I would process and deal with that wrong. Would I allow it to consume me or would I rise above it and let God consume me?

-Tony Dungy NFL Coach

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# Forces Against Injustice

- 1. Personal Vengeance
- 2. Legal (Civil or Criminal) Vengeance
- 3. Spiritual Vengeance

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#### Luke 18:1-8

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

#### Luke 18:1-8

4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says.

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### Luke 18:1-8

7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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#### Avenge

Greek word ekdikeō

- 1. to vindicate one's right, do one justice
- to protect, defend, one person from another
- 2. to avenge a thing
- 3. to punish a person for a thing

#### Justice in NT

- 1. Do not avenge yourself
- 2. God jealousy guards his own people
- 3. Defeat injustice in a new way
  - 1. Overcome injustice with good deeds
  - 2. Trust God to overcome injustice with both now and with ultimate judgment on the day of the Lord.

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### God is Justice

Justice is rooted in the very nature of God. He evenhandedly rewards good and he punishes sin always. However, God rarely delivers instant justice but rather gives time for repentance. The foundation of biblical hope is that the Lord will decisively intervene to right all injustice in the future at His second coming.

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#### Atheism is too Simple to

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of "just" and "unjust"...What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?...Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own.

### Atheism is too Simple

But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies ...Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple"

#### -C.S. Lewis

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### Romans 12:14-18

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

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#### Romans 12:14-18

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

# Romans 12:19-20

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