

# The Attributes of God: Justice

Pastor Darrell B. Harrison  
Redeemer Bible Church  
Bible Hour  
Saturday, February 14, 2026  
4:00 p.m.

## Justice defined:

The quality or principle of **fairness, righteousness, and impartiality** in dealing with individuals and society. In the biblical context, justice is an **essential attribute** of God.\*

\*Jeremiah K. Garrett, "Justice," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Bible Reference Series* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

# Attributes of God

Possession

VS.

Expression

## Justice Contrasted to God's Other Attributes:

- **Holiness:** God's justice is His holiness applied to moral order (**Gen 18:19**).
- **Love:** God's justice reflects what He loves and values (**Ps 33:5**).
- **Wrath:** God's justice is not an arbitrary anger; but is His holy opposition to all evil (**Prov 21:15**).
- **Grace:** God's grace does not cancel His justice, but satisfies and transcends it (**Isa. 30:18**).

## A.W. Tozer on Universalism:

Now, you know in this day, we have **cheapened** religion and **cheapened** salvation. We have **cheapened** our concept of God to a place where we expect to stumble in whistling and have God take us in. We expect that. We don't worry about it much. We expect we got a marked New Testament and a tract, and we expect to stumble in and up to the pearly gates and bat on the gate and say, "Well, God, I'm here!", because **we've reduced God in our thinking**. "My brethren, the old serious theologian [Anselm] asked God the question, "How dost Thou spare the wicked? How canst Thou spare a wicked man since Thou art **just** and **supremely just**?" We'd better get that figured out lest we presumptuously go to the gate of heaven and be turned away.\*

## J.I. Packer on Universalism:

No evangelical, I think, need hesitate to admit that in his heart of hearts he would like universalism to be true. Who can take pleasure in the thought of people being eternally lost? If you want to see folk damned, there is something wrong with you! Universalism is thus a **comfortable doctrine** in a way that alternatives are not. But **wishful thinking**, based on a **craving for comfort** and a **reluctance to believe** that **some of God's truth might be tragic**, is no sure index of reality.\*

\*Cited in: *Evangelical Affirmations* by Kenneth Kantzer and Carl F.H. Henry, Zondervan, 1990, p. 107-108, [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com).

## Dr. Robert A. Peterson on Universalism:

Although we can sympathize with the desires of universalists that all be saved, we must label universalism a **false teaching**. In fact, universalism flies in the face of Scripture and **deliberately avoids** much of the biblical evidence.\*

*\*Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment, P&R Publishers, 1995, p.156.*

## C.H. Spurgeon on God's Justice:

When the soul is seriously impressed with the conviction of its guilt, when terror and alarm get hold upon it concerning the inevitable consequences of its sin, **the soul is afraid of God**. It dreads at that time **every attribute** of divinity. But most of all the sinner is **afraid of God's justice**. "Ah," saith he to himself, "**God is a just God**; and if so, how can he pardon my sins? For my iniquities cry aloud for punishment, and my transgressions demand that his right hand should smite me low. How can I be saved?" Were God unjust, he might forgive; but alas! He is not so, **he is severely just**. He layeth justice to the line, and righteousness to the plummet.' He is judge of all the earth, and **he must do right.**\*

\*C.H. Spurgeon Sermons, New Park Street Pulpit, Vol. 5 1859, Reformation Heritage Books (2024), hardcover, p. 241.

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-10\*

**9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.\*

\*New American Standard Bible (1995) translation.

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## Coordinating Conjunctions:

- Connect words, phrases, or clauses of **equal grammatical rank**.
- Used to continue the force of a **negative clause**.

## Ligonier Ministries:

Our culture tends to think that it is a given that God loves the world. However, we know that **nothing compels God to love creation**. In fact, it would be right for the Lord to have **nothing but hatred** for the world given the reality of sin. The love of God is **not a given**, so we should be grateful for it and be careful **never to speak** of His love as something that **we are owed** or that **He must show**.

## Martin Luther on God's Justice:

Since God is a **just** Judge, we must **love and laud His justice** and thus rejoice in God even when He miserably destroys the wicked in body and soul; for in all this His **high and inexpressible justice** shines forth. And so even hell, no less than heaven, is full of God and the highest Good. For **the justice of God is God Himself**; and **God is the highest Good**. Therefore, even as His mercy, so His justice or judgment must be loved, praised, and glorified **above all things.**

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does **Romans 5:6** shape your understanding of God's love and justice?
2. How does trusting God's justice free you from the need to control outcomes? (**see Romans 12:19**)
3. What does it mean to believe that God will ultimately "set all things right"? (**see 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**)
4. How does eschatological justice reshape how we respond to injustice now? (**see 1 Timothy 5:24**)

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