

GOD'S --- JUSTICE

(PART 3)

CONNECT GROUP NOTES



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : God's Justice Part 3

Sermon audio : <https://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/322>

READER 1

The Justice of God was fulfilled at the Cross. The enemy wants to rob us of the power of Jesus' victory on the cross. However, the grave could have no power over sinless Jesus.

This is the justice of God, both to allow Jesus to die for us, and to raise him up again for His sinlessness.

He demonstrated his commitment to upholding His word when He told Adam that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would surely die. For that sin, Jesus took the punishment.

Romans 3:25-26

25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Question 1: Do you trust in the Justice of God?

READER 2

If we trust in the justice of God, we should reflect His justice in our lives. We can reflect the justice of God in our lives by forgiving others who have wronged us, and releasing them into God's justice instead of our own.

We trust in God's justice when we forgive people. That is what forgiveness is. Forgiveness is not allowing people to get away with wrongdoings, it's not pretending that they didn't do something bad, it is releasing them from your justice into God's justice.

What happens when we don't do this, what happens when we hold onto unforgiveness? Unforgiveness leads to bitterness, and even sickness, because of that sin that is ruling over you. It damages your life and the lives of people around you

READER 3

Instead of holding onto our unforgiveness, let us have faith for forgiveness.

Genesis 13:3

**³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”**

God makes a promise that He can deal with those who have affected our lives. He can bless the ones who bless us, and curse the ones who curse us. We should trust God to handle it.

God is personally invested in us and in our lives. When we are persecuted, those who persecute us are also persecuting Jesus.

Acts 9:3-5

³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

Question 2: Do you find it easy to forgive those who treat you unjustly? Are you able to release them into God's justice, rather than your own?

READER 4

When we start to rely on God's justice and not our own, it helps us to also remember who God is. God is merciful. We do not receive the punishment that we deserve for our sins, because Jesus died in our place. This grace is extended to us, and to our enemies as well.

God is patient. God wants to see people turn to Him, we need to trust in His timing. It is not our place to make a plan for God. God will do His works in His time.

God is just. God will deliver judgement to those who refuse to come to Him. He will do it in His time, we just need to release them into His hands, and allow God to deal with them as His justice deems it.

When we keep in mind the character of our God, it becomes much easier for us to let go and release those who have wronged us. We can rely on God, trusting Him, and we can know that in His perfect time and perfect ways, He will bring His justice about.

Question 3: Have you ever felt like someone didn't get what you thought they deserved from God? How does your expected justice compare to the justice of God?

READER 5

We know to let go of unforgiveness. We will choose to have faith for forgiveness in our lives, and we will take hold of who God is, trusting in His plans. So how can we practically outwork this into our lives?

We should repent of our unforgiveness. We need to first turn away from our unforgiveness, repent to the Lord and then forgive those who you were holding unforgiveness towards.

We should leave room for God's wrath, and not our own.

Romans 12:18-21

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

When we choose not to repay evil with good we are allowing for God's wrath to take the place of our wrath. This means that instead of pouring out our own wrath and sinning against them ourselves, we can allow God's justice to take place, and we can keep ourselves from doing what is evil.

We should be overcoming the evil that was done to us with the good we do in return. The good deeds that we repay the evil with, should outshine the severity of the evil that was done to us.

READER 6

Lastly, we should avoid trapping ourselves in religious pride. It is so easy to trust in ourselves and convince ourselves that we are good and right living people, but what we need in our lives is to realise that we are broken and sinful.

Luke 7:46-47

⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

When we see that we need forgiveness we will turn to God and we will be forgiven. We all need forgiveness.

We should treat forgiveness as an event, and walk it out as a process. Repentance is a decision, but we must then choose to walk it out every day.

Question 4: Which of these areas can you improve on in your life in order to allow God's justice to be present in our life?

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read and why ?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take in order for you to release people from your sense of justice and hand them over to God's justice ?