



❖ Introduction

He's back in the news and back in court again O.J. Simpson

In American justice, no event stands out more prominently than the murder trial of OJ Simpson. The criminal justice system (or the mockery thereof) was placed on display for all to see. I think most would agree that had OJ been a poor man from the streets of an inner city, innocent or guilty, he never would have been acquitted. Man's justice is permeated with partiality in the application of the law. Those with status get special breaks and preferential treatment.

This is not so with God. God judges in accordance with His standard without favoritism or partiality. You will never get special treatment because he likes you, or be treated harshly because He doesn't.

❖ Discovering the Justice of God – Part 1

- Defining Justice
 - Justice is the state in which governing is in accordance with what is right.
- Defining God's Justice
 - As righteousness speaks of God's relationships, justice speaks of God's governing.
 - God is the standard, abides by the standard, and rules according to the standard **PERFECTLY**.

The perfections of God, the very nature of God demands justice.

❖ THE DEMAND FOR JUSTICE: The Holiness & Righteousness of God

- The **HOLINESS** of God demands justice.

Ezekiel 36:23 (ESV)

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Isaiah 5:16

But the Lord of hosts will be exalted in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness. .

God's holiness is under attack, it is being polluted, it is not being honored. Holiness must be vindicated. Humanity must be judged to honor God's holiness.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

- The **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God demands Justice.

Psalms 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

Psalms 7:9-12 (NAU)

O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds. 10 My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart. 11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day. 12 If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.

As his mercies are new every morning towards his people, so his anger is new every morning against the wicked, upon the fresh occasions given for it by their renewed transgressions. God is angry with the wicked even in the merriest and most prosperous of their days, even in the days of their devotion; for, if they be suffered to prosper, it is in wrath; if they pray, their very prayers are an abomination. The wrath of God abides upon them (Jn. 3:36) and continual additions are made to it. – Matthew Henry

God's righteousness is under attack, it is being polluted, it is not being honored. Righteousness must be vindicated. Humanity must be judged to honor God's righteousness.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

- Our God does not, cannot, wink at sin. He receives no excuses, not one. The one who fails just once to continue in all things which are written in God's precepts is CURSED.
- Any thought, any word, any action that is not in perfect compliance and perfect demonstration of the holiness and righteousness of God must be punished or justice is imperfect & flawed. The holiness and righteousness of God is then POLLUTED.
- If even the most insignificant sin in the THOUGHTS of man was left unpunished, then unrighteousness would have triumphed over righteous, evil over good.
- Anything less than strictest justice would destroy God's own character.
- Holiness and righteousness demand perfect justice.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

What does God's justice look like?

❖ The Penalty of Justice: The WRATH of God

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NAU)

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction [distress, anguish] those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution [vengeance] to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the [just, right] penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

Romans 1:18 (ESV)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

Revelation 20:14-15

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

John 3:36 (NET)

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

- The wrath of God "remains on" every human being until they place faith in Jesus. Without Christ, every human being is destined to suffer under the JUST penalty for sin, the wrath of God in the lake of fire for eternity.

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!

- It is only through ¹the imputation [transfer] of our sin to Christ, ²the wrath of God poured out on Him, and ³the imputation of His righteousness to us that we can be spared from facing the wrath of God for eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Romans 3:25 -26

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

JUSTICE IS SERVED!

- Because God's wrath was unleashed on Jesus, His justice against sin is SATISFIED and through the imputation [crediting] of Christ's righteousness to us by faith, God can declare us RIGHTEOUS.

Romans 5:9 (NAS)

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

JUSTICE IS SERVED! HALLELUJAH!!!!

What does God's justice look like? . . . **Social justice**

What does God's justice look like?

There is another facet of God's justice as displayed in Scripture. All through the Old Testament particularly, God's justice is closely linked to caring for the poor and needy. He is seen to be the defender of the needy and judges those who take advantage of or merely neglect them. He has a special place in His heart for the orphan and widow.

In our modern society these people are conveniently forgotten and neglected. Our pendulum theology doesn't motivate us either. Because of the rise of the "social gospel," equating social welfare with the preaching of the gospel, those who hold to the true gospel have swung the pendulum in the opposite direction, neglecting social justice.

What does God's justice look like?

❖ Discovering the Justice of God – Part 2

- Defining Justice

- Justice is the state in which governing is in accordance with what is right . . . **WITHOUT PARTIALITY.**

- Defining God's Justice

What does God's justice look like?

2 Chronicles 19:7

Now then let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the LORD our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe."

Job 8:3

Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?

- As righteousness speaks of God's relationships, justice speaks of God's governing . . . **WITHOUT PARTIALITY.**
- God is the standard, abides by the standard, and rules according to the standard perfectly . . . **WITHOUT PARTIALITY.**
- God acts and judges in accordance with what is right . . . **WITHOUT PARTIALITY.**

What does God's justice look like?

- God's justice demands that judgment be fully rendered without partiality.

Job 34:19

Who shows no partiality to princes nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?

Deuteronomy 10:18

He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

Psalms 140:12

I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted And justice for the poor.

Psalms 146:7

Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free.

If we really take to heart the verses related to God's justice and the needy, we ought to be moved with compassion to reach out and care for these individuals. This is not just an Old Testament principle. Jesus stated very clearly the obligation to care for the needy. James said that care for the orphan and widow is the purest display of Christianity.

Is God's heart broken over injustice? Absolutely, and He is moved to rectify the injustice. Is my heart broken over the plight of the needy? Am I promoting justice through my words and actions?

- God's justice demands that God's people promote impartial justice, and the protection, defense, and care for the oppressed and **NEGLECTED.**
- Repeatedly in scripture, *"the focus is upon the oppressed with particular attention given to specific groups, such as the poor, widows, the fatherless, slaves, resident aliens, wage earners, and those with physical infirmities."* – Harper's Bible Dictionary

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

Deuteronomy 16:20

"Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Psalms 82:3

Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Malachi 3:5 (NCV)

The Lord All-Powerful says, "Then I will come to you and judge you. I will be quick to testify against those who take part in evil magic, adultery, and lying under oath, those who cheat workers of their pay and who cheat widows and orphans, those who are unfair to foreigners, and those who do not respect me.

God is the standard,
abides by the standard,
and rules according to the standard
perfectly . . . **without PARTIALITY**.

God's justice demands that God's people
promote impartial justice,
and the protection, defense, and care
for the oppressed and **NEGLECTED**.

Father,

My heart is touched by your great justice. Surely at times I have been guilty of showing partiality in judgement. Surely at times I have neglected the needy when I had opportunity and means. Surely, I have retaliated against injustice instead of leaving it in your hands. Forgive me I pray.

I praise you for you are a just God. Father, as I look at the world around me, I do see so much injustice. I long for the day when you will judge with equity and justice.

Father, help me to look with compassion on the needy and show me how you would have me be your minister of justice to them. Soften my cold, self-protective, complacent, comfortable self. Lord, I make myself available to you, to show the glory of your justice in whatever way you would lead.