

The Answer - Pt 3
Giving God Justice
5/2/21

Been looking at the foundation for understanding what is wrong in our world and in our lives

There is one basic problem which is at the root of every other problem

Therefore, we can never solve these problems if we do not face the foundation
Seen that the root of all problems of man is that we are trying to exercise a capacity for judging right and wrong which God did not give us

- God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- Their knowledge of good and evil was to come through obeying God's word
- We saw last time that the only man who had the perfect knowledge of truth was Jesus, but He lived submitted to His Father's instructions

We have also seen that when we try to tackle the tough issues of justice, abortion, reproductive rights, human sexuality based on our own judgment of what is right and wrong, we end up in the mess we are in.

The church is God's answer to these problems, but we are divided over them

- As long as we are looking at these issues through our understanding, we will remain divided
- Distinction between divisive and disagreement - you can disagree without being divided
- Division is the result of seeking different results - disagreement is when we don't agree on how to reach the result, we both want
- Usually, the different result is selfish so automatically different motive
- When we submit ourselves to what God says is right and wrong, because He says so, only then will we have the foundation for unity

Eph 4:1-6 - what unites is that the same Spirit is dwelling in each of us

He has one purpose - to carry out the will of God

Unless we are all committed to the same purpose - God's purpose, we remain divided

Eph 4:11-16 - Purpose of the ministry gifts - incl pastor-teacher

Grow by speaking the truth in love

The unity is that we are all to grow together into the image of Christ

Christ is the physical, human image of God

Purpose is to lead us as a congregation together to look at difficult issues of today

Justice - God's Word filled with evidence of His demand for justice and hatred of injustice

Definition (general): being treated fairly, receiving what is right, fair, and appropriate

In law represented by the Image of a lady, holding a sword, blindfolded, and holding a scale

Sword - represents the consequences for violating the law

Scale - having the punishment balanced (appropriate with the crime)

Blind fold - justice is exercised without regard to whoever it is

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For someone who is guilty of murder to go without punishment - not just
For someone who is guilty of stealing gum to be sentenced to 5 years
hard labor

For two people guilty of the same crime to be treated differently
because of who they are - injustice

My research found many different types of justice

Giving God justice - what justice is He entitled to receive?

We expect justice for ourselves without first giving God the justice for which
He is due

Foundation of Martin Luther for his understanding which became the
foundation for the Reformation and for our faith today - "salvation is alone by
faith in Christ"

Begins by understanding who God is, and who or what He is not.

We all form some image of who and what we believe God is, what He is like &
what He requires.

These images come from our own mind and our own motives

They come from within us

We form our image of God based on what we want Him to be

Popular belief now: "A loving God would never send someone to
Hell"

"I just can't believe that God would"

We form our image of God based on what we think we can handle or
what makes us uncomfortable

We can have different groups of professing Christians disagree on what is
important to God - abortion, racial prejudice and many other current
issues

Ex 32:1-6 - they made FOR THEMSELVES an image of a calf out of gold

Used the gold God gave them to build the ark of covenant on which He was to
dwell

They called this image "their god who brought them out of Egypt"

Vs 5 called the calf the Lord and celebrated a feast to it

When we evaluate who God is and what is right on our own, we are doing the same
thing

We must let God, Himself, tell us who He is, what He is like and what He requires.

This image must come from outside of us and it confronts us by who He is
He reveals what He wants us to know about Him through His Word

Christ is the Word made flesh, so He is a revelation of God

The religious leaders hated him because He confronted who they were

God reveals Himself as, above all, a holy god, fully righteous, just and truth

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Examples of God's holiness vs man's sense of right and wrong

Lev 10:1-3 Aaron's sons

Seems like a harsh punishment for so little an infraction

Ex 30:8-10 - only Aaron, not "strange fire", "it is most holy to the Lord"

Aaron was silent

1 Chron 13:6-12 - Uzzah struck dead for trying to rescue the ark

God seems to be very unjust and unfair - he was only trying to help

Vs 11 David became angry at the Lord

This was the most holy of the tabernacle - God's presence dwelt on it

God had commanded it could only be carried on shoulders of men chosen by God

Th OT lists crimes that were punishable by death, incl. cursing parents, murder, kidnapping, unlawful divorce, blasphemy, sabbath violations, sexual perversion, practicing magic, consulting mediums or wizards, rape, incest and false prophecy.

Some seem very harsh to our sense of justice

Compare the penalty for sin in God's original creation

All sin resulted in death

Ez 18:4 - "the soul who sins is the one who will die"

God told Adam that sin brings the loss of the gift of life

The Holiness of God, R.C. Sproul, pg 115.

We have not used the gift of life for the purpose God intended. Life on this planet has become the arena in which we daily carry out the work of cosmic treason. Our crime is far more serious, far more destructive than that of Benedict Arnold. No traitor to any king or nation has even approached the wickedness of our treason before God. Sin is cosmic treason. Sin is treason against a perfectly pure Sovereign. It is an act of supreme ingratitude toward the One to whom we owe everything, to the One who has given us life itself. Have you ever considered the deeper implications of the slightest sin, of the most minute peccadillo? What are we saying to our Creator when we disobey Him at the slightest point? We are saying no to the righteousness of God. We are saying, "God, Your law is not good. My judgment is better than Yours. Your authority does not apply to me. I am above and beyond Your jurisdiction. I have the right to do what I want to do, not what You command me to do."

Job - a righteous man who avoided evil

Satan asked permission to test him

Suffered total loss of family, possessions and health

Although he kept his integrity, under pressure he claimed that God was not fair

Job 9:32 if God were anyone else he could summon him to court and have a judge decide who was fair - a mediator between God and Job

God's answer was 2 chapters of God asking questions reminding Job who He is

We know that God has provided a mediator for us - His Son so that His righteous judgment for our rebellion is paid for by Him

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But in all our positioning about what is right and wrong in our lives, in the world and the church, we can never lose sight of the fact that we have not right to make those judgments based on what we think.

To be in Christ means I have no independent judgment about any issue. His judgment is mine.