

Basic Theology Series: God Is Just

Main Point: God always does what is right, judges evil perfectly, and makes His people love what is right.

Key Scriptures

Deuteronomy 32:4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

Psalms 89:14 “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.”

Romans 3:23–26 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Revelation 20:12 “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.”

1. Opening Illustration: “That’s Not Fair!”

Have you ever seen something happen and immediately thought, ‘That’s not fair!’?

Every person in this room knows something about justice because God made us in His image. Even children understand that some things are right and some things are wrong. But because we are sinners, our sense of justice can be selfish, limited, or confused. God’s justice is never selfish, never limited, and never confused. God is perfectly just. Today we are continuing our study of God’s attributes by learning that God is just.

2. What Does It Mean That God Is Just?

Read Deuteronomy 32:4.

Justice means that God always does what is right. He never makes a wrong decision. He never judges unfairly. He never ignores truth. He never has to apologize for getting something wrong. God’s justice is closely connected to His righteousness. To say God is righteous means God is perfectly right in who He is. To say God is just means God always acts rightly in what He does. God does not merely follow a standard of justice outside Himself. God Himself is the standard. Something is right because it agrees with God’s own perfect character.

God is the Standard of Justice

God cannot be bribed.

God cannot be fooled.

God does not show sinful favoritism.

God does not overlook evil because He is too weak to act.

God does not judge harshly or unfairly.

God always knows the truth and always does what is right.

Read Psalm 89:14.

The Bible says righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne. That means God's rule is not random, cruel, or corrupt. God rules rightly.

Family Discussion: Why is it good news that God is not just powerful, but also just?

3. God's Justice Means Sin Matters

If God is just, then sin cannot be ignored. Sometimes people think love means pretending sin is not a big deal. But God's love is not unjust. God's kindness does not mean He stops caring about right and wrong.

Imagine a judge sitting in a courtroom. A guilty criminal stands before him. The evidence is clear. The person has harmed others. But the judge says, 'I am loving, so I will ignore the crime and let him go.' Would that be a good judge? No. A judge who ignores evil is not loving the victims. He is not upholding what is right. God is not like an unjust human judge. God will not pretend evil is good. He will not call darkness light. He will not sweep sin under the rug.

Read Romans 3:23.

This is where God's justice becomes very personal. We usually like the idea of God judging evil out there in the world. But the Bible says sin is also in us. We have all sinned. We have all fallen short of God's glory.

God's justice is comforting because He will judge evil.

God's justice is sobering because we are sinners too.

God's justice is not only for murderers, thieves, and people on the news. God's justice also deals with our lies, pride, selfishness, anger, rebellion, and unbelief.

Whole Group Question Why do people sometimes want God to judge evil in the world, but not judge the sin in their own hearts?

God's justice teaches us that sin is serious. But God's justice also leads us to see why the gospel is such good news.

4. The Cross Shows God's Justice and Mercy

Read Romans 3:24–26,

The cross is where we see something amazing. God does not ignore sin, but He also saves sinners. At the cross, Jesus took the punishment His people deserved. God did not pretend sin was no big deal. Sin was judged. But instead of pouring judgment on everyone who trusts in Christ, God placed that judgment on Jesus.

At the cross, God did not cancel justice. He satisfied justice.

This does not mean Jesus was an unwilling victim. The Son willingly gave Himself. The Father sent the Son in love. The Spirit applies the work of Christ to believers. The whole work of

salvation is the work of the one true God. This is why Christians do not have to be terrified of God's justice. If you belong to Jesus, your sin has already been judged at the cross. This is also why we should never treat sin lightly. Sin is so serious that Christ had to die to save us from it."

Family Discussion: How does the cross show that God is both just and merciful?

5. God's Justice Gives Us Hope

One of the most comforting truths about God's justice is that all wrongs will one day be judged.

Read Revelation 20:12.

There are many wrongs in this world that seem unresolved. Some lies are never exposed in this life. Some crimes are never punished in this life. Some people suffer and never receive earthly justice. Some wicked people seem to prosper. But God sees all. God knows all. God remembers all. God will judge all. The believer can look at the brokenness of the world and say, 'This is not the end of the story.' God will make all things right. This does not mean we celebrate judgment in a cruel way. Christians should grieve sin, desire repentance, and proclaim the gospel. But we can still have hope because evil will not have the final word. God's justice means no tear is meaningless, no evil is hidden, no sin is forgotten, and no wrong will stand forever."

Connect to previous lessons:

- Because God is omniscient, He knows every wrong.
- Because God is omnipresent, He is present when wrongs occur.
- Because God is omnipotent, He has power to judge.
- Because God is sovereign, His judgment cannot be stopped.
- Because God is good, His justice is never cruel.
- Because God is holy, He hates evil.
- Because God is immutable, His justice will never change.

Whole Group Question: How does God's justice give Christians hope when the world feels unfair?

6. How to Respond to God's Justice

1. We should trust God when life seems unfair.
2. We should not take revenge.
3. We should care about what is just.
4. We should share the gospel.

Is this communicable or non communicable?

Family Discussion

What is one way our family can live differently this week because God is just?

Homework

At lunch or on the drive home, ask:

"Where did we see something unfair this week, and how does knowing God is just help us respond?"