

Justice: Righteousness in Action

I – Justice Defined

The original Hebrew and Greek words are the same as those rendered "**righteousness.**" This is the common rendering, and in about **half the cases** where we have "just" and "justice" in the King James Version. The American Standard Revised Version has changed to "righteous" and "righteousness." **It must be constantly borne in mind that the two ideas are essentially the same.**

Justice is not only giving to others their rights but involves the **active duty** of **establishing** their rights.

Deuteronomy 16:20 (NASB) ²⁰ "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

To seek justice means to **relieve** the oppressed, fatherless, **plead** for the widow and the less fortunate.

Isaiah 1:17 (NASB) ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

II - Nature of Justice

Justice has two **major** aspects.

1. First, it is the **standard** by which penalties are assigned for breaking the obligations of the society.

2. Second, justice is the standard by which the **advantages** of social life are **handed** out, including material goods, rights of participation, opportunities, and liberties.

Justice is like a **plumb** line.

Isaiah 28:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.

III – Time for Action

1. Do Justice (righteousness and righteously)
2. Speak up, speak out and stand for God's definition of justice.
3. Find your cause for justice and pursue with passion.
4. Seek to see the entire community lifted up.

*Rhema Christian Center
RoShawn Cole, Deacon
Sunday, April 15, 2018
8:00 a.m.*