

GOD IS JUST AND ACTS IN JUSTICE

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The Concise Oxford Dictionary says, “To be just is acting in accordance with what is morally right or fair”. “To do justice is to treat fairly”.

Justice is a primary attribute of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Justice is God’s love in action among people. Injustice is abhorrent to God.

How do we know God is just and acts in accordance with justice?

In the Old Testament:

“For the Lord is a God of **justice**”. *Isaiah 30:18*

“For I, the Lord, love **justice**”; *Isaiah 61:8 (Deuteronomy 32:4)*

“The Lord is King for ever and ever;.....**To do justice** to the fatherless and the oppressed”,
Psalm 10:16,18

Justice is one of the foundations of God’s throne. *Psalm 89:14*

“The Lord executes righteousness **and justice** for all who are oppressed” *Psalm 103:6*

Psalm 146 outlines some of the aspects of **God’s justice**.

Verse 7 Who executes **justice** for the oppressed.

Who gives food to the hungry, The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

Verse 8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down.

The Lord loves the righteous.

Verse 9 The Lord watches over the strangers. He relieves the fatherless and widow.

But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

God instructs us to **do justly**, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. *Micah 6:8*

In the New Testament:

In the New Testament, God’s Word says, “But you denied the Holy One and **the Just**,” (speaking of Jesus).
Acts 3:14

“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?who foretold the coming of **the Just One**, (speaking of Jesus). *Acts 7:52*

“The God of your fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the **Just One**”, (speaking of Jesus). *Acts 22:14*

Zechariah prophesied about Jesus riding into Jerusalem and said, “**He is just** and having salvation,”
Zechariah 9:9. Matthew 21:1 – 11 fulfilled.

In *Matthew 12:18 – 21*, which is about Jesus, it says of Him that he will declare **justice** to the Gentiles, and send forth **justice** to victory.

What does it mean to act justly?

God’s command to **justice** is expressed as the second of the two great commands of God to every person, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. *Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27, Leviticus 19:18*

God requires us to implement that. God considers it **just** that people be provided with food, water, clothes, shelter and human comfort and support. *Matthew 25:31 – 46*. As human beings, God has commanded us to make sure as far as we are able, that other people around us are provided with these basic necessities.
Matthew 7:12

God in His justice acts on behalf of those who are not being treated fairly. *Psalm 103:6*

Jesus said, “Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the prophets”.
Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31

This is being **just**. This is acting **justly**. This is **justice**.

As the Dictionary says, “**To do justice** is to treat others fairly.” **Justice** is treating other people equally as you wish to be treated by them. Jesus said, “Do unto others as you want them to do to you”. *Luke 6:31*

Jesus ministry and message was one of justice for the poor, the broken hearted, the captives, the blind and the oppressed. All of them needed the Gospel of Good News. *Luke 4:18,19*. In Genesis 3, Satan came to steal, rob, kill and destroy. And he did. Jesus came to restore life, hope and a doorway of salvation. *John 10:10*

Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light”.
Matthew 6:19,20,22. Proverbs 22:9, and the margin comment, define that **a good eye is a generous eye**.

“Did not your father eat and drink, and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged, (defended), the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Was this not knowing Me? Says the Lord. Jeremiah 22:15,16

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him”. Acts 10:38

Deuteronomy 15:7 – 11 instructs us **to care for the poor**. We are to open our hand wide, and willingly provide for the needs of the poor around us.

“He who has a generous, (Hebrew Literally “good”, refer to *Matthew 6:22*), eye will be blessed, for he gives his bread to the poor”. *Proverbs 22:9*

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”. *James 1:27*

“Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, will also cry himself and not be heard”. *Proverbs 21:13, Proverbs 14:21,31, 17:5, 19:17, 28:27*

“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself”. *Proverbs 11:25*

“He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given”. *Proverbs 19:17*

“He who gives to the poor will not lack”. *Proverbs 28:27*

When the Son of Man comes to judge the Nations, *Matthew 25:31 – 46*, He will judge all people as to whether or not we have **acted justly** in our dealings with others.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me””. *Matthew 25:34 – 36*

They replied to the King and said, “When did we see You in need and help You?” *Matthew 25:40*

“And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren you did it to Me” ”.

Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:19 – 21. This was a very unjust situation. The command of God for the rich man was to love his neighbour as himself, and this he did not do.

May the Lord enable each one of us to care for those around us who are in need and **act in a just** manner.

Dorothy and I visit a church in Northland, New Zealand, which for 6 years has been caring for the poor, distressed and needy in the town in which they are located. The presence of God, His blessings and miraculous works are very evident. Many have seen and benefited from the love of the believers and have opened their hearts to Christ.