

## Christians dealing with injustice

**At times it may SEEM that God is not looking out for the oppressed** - Ps 82:1-4 - God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods": 2 "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 **Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.** 4 **Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.**

...**But by faith we know better** - Ps 10:17-18 - 17 **You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted;** you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, 18 defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

**God makes known that injustice will be seen and we can't allow it be our driving force**

Ecl 4:1 - Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed — and **they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors** — and they have no comforter.

Ecl 5: 8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, **DO NOT BE SURPRISED AT SUCH THINGS**; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still.

**Make no mistake, God abhors injustice**

Prov 11:1 - The **LORD ABHORS dishonest scales**, but accurate weights are his delight.

Prov 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures — the **LORD DETESTS THEM BOTH**.

Prov 20:23 The **LORD DETESTS differing weights**, and dishonest scales **DO NOT PLEASE HIM**.

**We must be warned that those that participate in it will pay** - James 2:13 because **judgment without mercy WILL BE SHOWN** to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

**When it comes down to it, it will fare better for the oppressed than it will for the oppressor –**

Prov 16:19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

Isa 10:1-3 - **Woe to those** who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, 2 to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. 3 **What will you do on the day of reckoning**, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches?

**Christians do have a responsibility to those being treated wrong and don't have the means to protect themselves** - Prov 31:8-9 - 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 **SPEAK UP** and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

**We must train ourselves in the LORD to do what is right** - Isa 1:16-17 - 16 wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, 17 learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

**How should Christians deal with injustice?**

**If we ignore it we WILL have to answer to God for it** - Prov 21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, HE TOO WILL CRY OUT AND NOT BE ANSWERED.

**If we see our brothers distressed and do nothing, we show hate to our brothers** - 1 John 3:15 Anyone who **HATES HIS BROTHER IS A MURDERER**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

**We MUST NOT be emotionally driven or it makes us just as wrong** - Eph 4:26 "**IN YOUR ANGER DO NOT SIN**": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

**Christians shouldn't wait for incidents to have dialogue; Christians are obligated to communicate driven by God to be unified in God (This is where the church has failed miserably)**

**We must remove self for the conversation to be effective**-Phil 2:2-4 - 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Rom 12:16 & 1 Peter 3:8-9 - **Live in harmony**

2 Cor 13:11- **be of one mind, live in peace.**

Rom 15:5 – **have Spirit of unity as we follow Christ Jesus,**

Eph 4:2-6 - **bearing with one another, Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace...**

1 Cor 1:10-11 – **All of you agree (in Jesus name), NO DIVISION, perfectly united in mind and thought**

**Communication must be a Spirit led, NOT emotionally led, discussion to HEAR others** - James 1:19-20 - 19 My dear brothers, **take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,** 20 for **MAN'S ANGER DOES NOT BRING ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE THAT GOD DESIRES.**

**Christians must deal with incidences fully based on God or else we are messing with Sacred things** - Rom 12:17-19 - 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, **AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, live at peace with everyone.** 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "IT IS MINE TO AVENGE; I WILL REPAY," SAYS THE LORD