

Justice and Peace

By Barbara Caldwell

“But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.”

Amos 5:24

“No justice no peace.” We heard this phrase echoed throughout the protests. We talk about justice, injustice, social justice, doing justice and whether or not justice has been served. What seems “just” to one person, seems “unjust” to another. Justice is a word that gets thrown around a lot. As Christians, how should we think about justice? What is the biblical definition of justice?

The Bible says that every person is made in the image of God and because God made us, we are all equally valuable, special and loved by God. That doesn’t mean that we are all the same. We are all different reflections of God’s image. But we don’t always treat everybody fairly. We tend to associate with those that possess characteristics and qualities similar to ourselves while failing to embrace the differences of others. Instead of living in a world of justice where people get what they deserve, we live in a world of injustice where differences are not embraced. This is not God-like behavior. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Biblical justice is God centered and not man centered. Biblical justice is always seeking to honor God and obeying His word. The Bible is clear that we should not be partial to the great or small, rich or poor. The bible condemns injustice because God is just and he strongly opposes injustice.

Biblically, *justice* refers to "conformity to a rule or norm." If life and salvation were a game, we would say that God plays by the rules. He sets them and never deviates from them. What God does is always consistent with who and what He is.

God's justice is never divorced from His righteousness. He never condemns the innocent; never clears the guilty; never punishes with undue severity; never fails to reward righteousness. His justice is perfect justice. God is justice!

Know Justice, Know Peace