

HOW TO BUILD A GODLY LIFE
ADD THE CHARACTER TRAIT OF JUSTICE TO YOUR LIFE

Intro: We have been in this series a long time. Why? It takes time to grow things and it takes time to grow a spiritual life.

Prov. 21:3, "To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." (KJV)

Other versions say it this way:

Prov. 21:3, "God is more pleased when we are just and fair than when we give him gifts." (TLB)

Prov. 21:3, "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." (NIV)

I. A GODLY LIFE IS A LIFE THAT DOES RIGHT AND IS FAIR (MAKES JUST JUDGMENTS)

A. JUSTICE IS DOING RIGHT.

B. HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT or WRONG? That is the BIG QUESTION TODAY.

1. We are living in a day when God's Laws of Right and Wrong are being abandoned.

C. What are The Rewards for being a just person?

Proverbs 4:18, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Proverbs 9:9, "Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

Proverbs 12:13, "The just shall come out of trouble."

Proverbs 12:21, "There shall no evil happen to the just."

Proverbs 13:22, "The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."

Proverbs 24:16, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again."

Proverbs 10:7, "The memory of the just is blessed."

D. What are the Requirements for being just?

1. Justice is an active expression of the will and nature of God.

2. Justice requires a person to verbally confirm God's truth and carry it out.

3. Justice is doing right in every area of our life.

- E. An Example of a Just Man Doing Justice (Matt 20:1)
 - 1. Justice expresses God's wisdom. Fairness expresses man's reasoning.
- F. Justice not only involves doing right but also giving out just punishment.
- G. Justice requires swift punishment of those who break the rules.
 - 1. Parents who administer justice to their children: treating them right and punishing them right when they are disobedient will train up children that will make them happy.

II. How just are you?

- A. Have you read God's Law and do you memorize and meditate on it so you will know what is right and wrong?
 - 1. When you are dealing with a matter that requires justice, do you find comparable Biblical examples on which to base your decisions?
 - 2. Have you asked God for an understanding heart so you can make wise and just judgments?
 - 3. Do you have a meek spirit so God can guide you in justice and judgment?
 - 4. Do you understand the difference between justice and fairness?
 - 5. Do you cry out to God to help you when required to make a decision on justice?

James 1:5-8, "If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer." (TLB)

Do you need to add more justice to your life?