

The Justice of God



God is just. The writer of Deuteronomy, (32:4), says, “*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, **Just and right is he.***”

The Definition (What is it?)

When we say “God is just” we mean that He conforms to the right standard—and that standard is no other than God Himself! He is right. He is correct. He is perfect. He is fair. He is perfectly fair. He is good. He is perfectly good. The Psalmist said, “To shew that the Lord *is* upright: *He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him*” (92:15). “He loveth righteousness and judgment: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord” (33:5). The justice of God is closely related to the holiness of God. Think of a

diamond. Clear. Pure. Multifaceted. The justice of God is one of the faces of the holiness of God, and it is the part “by which He rewards conformity and punishes non-conformity to His perfect standard of right.”¹ “Good and upright is the Lord: Therefore will he teach sinners in the way” (25:8). Of the justice of the Lord, Abraham said, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25).

By His perfect justice, God rewards those who obey and punishes those who disobey. “Put simply: God gives to man what is due him” (McCune).

The Description (What it looks like?)

God’s justice is described as impartiality. Paul said, “For there is no respect of persons with God” (Romans 2:11). There is no partiality with God. “And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ^sye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons” (Colossians 3:23–25). Paul

¹Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology of Biblical Christianity: Prolegomena and the Doctrines of Scripture, God, and Angels*, vol. 1 (Allen Park, MI: Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009), 263–264.

was saying “the one who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there are no exceptions” (NET).

Illustration: Call on two volunteers. One obeys. The other disobeys. Pretend the sword falls on the one who obeys [allow audience to protest]. Sword should fall on the disobedient.

The Demand (What God wants from us?)

We don't like it when people are not just. We don't like it when God seems not to give justice. We cry just like the Psalmist did, “Arise, O Lord, in thine anger, Lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: And awake for me to the judgment *that* thou hast commanded” (7:6). More seriously, however, God demands us to be just. “He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; And what doth the Lord require of thee, But to do justly, and to love mercy, And to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8). **But have we?** Have we promote justice? Have we done kindly? Have we perfectly done right? Have we been obedient to God? **No!** And that is a big problem and you need to be saved from the justice of God!

The Deliverance (How to be delivered from the Justice of God?)

The Word of God says this: “Whom God hath ^sset forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶ To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:25-26). “God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed. This was also to demonstrate his righteousness in the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Jesus' faithfulness” (NET).

In another passage, Paul explained, “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

[Invite the audience to fly to Jesus, ask Him to exchange their sin with His perfect righteousness so that the sword of the perfect wrath, perfect justice of God doesn't fall on them.]

[Invite those who have forgotten the exchange to reflect upon the righteousness of Christ which was traded for their sin.]