



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!

Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!

Social Justice and the Church!

Deuteronomy 32:4

Topical Message #11 – S989

Sermon given on March 20, 2022

@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

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Social Justice and the Church!

Deuteronomy 32:4

Opening Comments

- Today, we continue our series: **Biblical Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**
- The purpose of this series is to make sure we are not allowing the world to influence our view of things
- The Bible is our guide to understanding and living in this world while we wait for Jesus to come get us
- Our topic for today is one that seems to dominate much of the public conversation – Social Justice
- And the question we want to answer this morning is, 'What role should the church play in social justice movements?'
- We will begin by defining what the church is and what its purpose is
- We will then look at the current definition of Social Justice and examine what role the church plays in Social Justice
- Let's pray and then talk about that!
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Social Justice and the Church!**
- Before we can look at the church's role in Social Justice we need to look at the church's role in the world
- The word 'church' can be used in three different but interrelated ways: a building, an organization, and an organism
- First, the building where the church gathers for worship is often called a church
- Second, the church is organized, CCFV is a 501C3 Non-profit corporation, with elders appointed for the institutional operation of the church – this is something Paul did **Acts 14:23**
So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- Third, the church is an organism, specifically a body of believers **1 Corinthians 12:27**
Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- Turn to **Ephesians 4**
- Every individual believer is unique and individual, but in aggregate with all other believers are the body of Christ and called to unity
- They are also called by God to be connected to one another through the organized church and to gather together in the building of the church to worship God in communion with one another
- You get the sense of that here in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians
- **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- Sadly, we are living in a time where many believers are abandoning the church building and the organized church for a virtual church experience
- Or choosing to neglect the body of Christ and seek a solitary religious experience
- The church is not a creation of man **Matthew 16:18**
And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- And while Jesus does delegate some authority to the elders of the church, He is always the highest authority **Colossians 1:18**
And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- The church doesn’t decide what its mission is – Jesus did that
Matthew 28:18-20
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.
- And in Mark’s gospel **Mark 16:15-16**
And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
- The mission of the church is the gospel
- What is sometimes left out of gospel presentations is justice
- Turn to **Romans 3**
- In both the Old and New Testaments the word Justice is related very closely to righteousness – often see them together **Deuteronomy 32:4**
He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.
- And God speaking of Himself **Isaiah 45:19b**

I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

- God is just – that means he always does what is right
- Commenting on that **Wayne Grudem – Bible Doctrine**
As a result of God's righteousness, it is necessary that He treat people according to what they deserve.

- Well, that is a problem for all people
- All people were created by God to be the objects of His eternal love
- Every human was created to bear God's image out into the world
- **Romans 3:21-23**
- The laws and commandments that God gave through Moses proved that mankind was incapable of achieving God's righteousness
- Sin mars the perfect image of God that we were created to bear
- And because of God's perfect righteousness and justice, sin must be punished **Romans 6:23a**

For the wages of sin is death...

- Sin must be punished, unless God makes a way for the sinner to have their sins covered over
- **Romans 3:24-26**
- Christ's sacrifice on the cross was a propitiation for our sin – a means of forgiveness – His sacrifice allows God to 'pass over' our sins and not punish us
- Through faith in Christ, our sins do not need to be judged and punished **1 John 3:5**

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

- Verse 26 of that text says that God is just (perfectly righteous) and the justifier (the one who makes someone perfectly righteous) through faith in Jesus
- The idea that God is just means that He always does what is right
- Which is also His expectation for His people **Micah 6:8**

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

- 'do justly' = do what is right
- How do we know what is right? **Wayne Grudem – Bible Doctrine**
Whatever conforms to God's moral character is right.
- How do we know what conforms to God's moral character?

- We read the book God gave us to reveal His character to us, especially in the Person of His Son Jesus Christ
- This brings us to the topic of social justice
- Let's start with a definition **Dictionary.com**
Social Justice: fair treatment of all people in a society, including respect for the rights of minorities and equitable distribution of resources among members of a community.
- It is in the phrase 'equitable distribution of resources' that we find the root of the modern Social Justice movements
- As Christians, we believe God is sovereign – He determines what is and what is not – He determines who has and who does not have
- The Bible teaches clearly that everyone is created equal in the eyes of God **Galatians 3:28**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- God declares a radical equality with all humans but not equity
- Not everyone is promised the same things or the same outcomes
- Three of the four gospels tell us that some people will be poor **Mark 14:7**

For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.

- The ideology of the modern Social Justice movements is that there should be equity
- And any inequity can be viewed as unjust – is evil and it is to be resisted and, in some cases, overthrown
- Are there injustices in this world – absolutely
- Here is the problem with most social justice movements
- It goes back to our definition of what was just **Wayne Grudem – Bible Doctrine**

Whatever conforms to God's moral character is right.

- Most of the world has rejected God and His Word
- You cannot have justice if you reject the Just One
- That becomes clear when you look closely at what they are proposing to correct the injustice
- It often creates an injustice for someone else
- It is a fact that black men make up a significant percentage of men in prison, more than their representation in the population

- Those with a modern, worldly ideology of social justice see this as injustice, just based on the raw numbers
- Their solution – stop sending black men to prison, even if they commit crimes
- It doesn't matter if someone is black, white, brown, or purple – do you know what happens when you don't punish criminals when they commit crimes – they commit more crimes
- Who suffers when that happens – their victims – not to mention the society we live in
- To correct one perceived injustice, they create another
- Without God there can be no justice
- As long as we are all wrapped in sinful flesh, there will be inequities and injustices in the world
- It is not the church's role in the world to fight injustice
- It is not the church's responsibility to raise up social justice warriors
- And I know that because that was not what Jesus did
- Jesus was a Jew and the Jewish people had been oppressed by the Romans for a long time
- Jesus didn't once suggest they throw off the pagan Roman oppressors
- Instead, He told them to pay their taxes **Mark 12:14b-17**
Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? ¹⁵ Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"
But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see *it*." ¹⁶ So they brought *it*. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.
- The church has no place getting involved in social justice movements
- That doesn't mean we don't do anything when injustices are revealed
- It is the church's role to speak truth into whatever is going on in the world around
- When the move to redefine marriage was going on, we taught what God's Word said about marriage and then we encouraged you to go exercise your right as a citizen and vote
- The church's responsibility is to the gospel and to the truth of God's Word

- The church's responsibility is to equip the saints (all of you) for the work of the ministry (sharing the truth of God's word through your lives and words)
- The church's responsibility is to magnify the name of Christ until He comes back again
- I am convinced Jesus would have nothing to do with any of the modern social justice movements
- I am also convinced that He loves every person involved in them and He wants them to come to know Him for forgiveness of sins
- This world doesn't need another social justice movement
- What this world needs is Jesus!
- Pray for this church, that we would keep Jesus at the center of everything we do
- Pray that God uses this church to share the gospel far and wide
- The only hope this world has is Jesus – pray He comes soon!
- **Prayer**