

Faith in Action: Public Life and Politics
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour Indiana
Pastor Blumenberg
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Overview: This class will seek to apply God's Word to current issues in public life, helping us be influencers rather than merely reacting to events and trends. Today we look at issues of justice in view of Supreme court nominee hearings and calls for fairness and equity.

1. From last week: Getting in the Conversation on Racism

How do you effect change in human attitudes and behavior?

How should we deal with failures in the past?

What about "Juneteenth" and "the 1619 project?"

How does the narrative impact the events?

2. The Context of Discussing Justice Today

- The hearings concerning a replacement for Justice Ginsburg.
 - Do personal convictions rule out a potential justice?
 - Do religious convictions disqualify a potential justice?
- Calls for justice following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others.
 - Is this justice under the law, or something else?
 - What is the status, and who decides if justice is done?
 - Distinctions between procedural, retributive, and restorative justice
- Calls for political and economic justice.
 - What standards apply?
 - Who arbitrates justice in these matters?

2. Defining Terms

While not all use the same definition, here are generally accepted definition:

Justice under the law means that all persons should be treated equally under law, regardless of economic, racial, gender, or political distinctions. "Lady justice should be blind and impartial."

Political justice means that all the citizens should enjoy the equal political rights. In other words, the citizens should have the right to participate in the Government.

Economic justice means that every citizen should get the opportunity to earn livelihood or, in some definitions, to be provided a living wage. Some include that all persons should get a fair share of the economic productivity of the whole.

3. What does the Bible Say about Justice?

Read Genesis 18:17-19 (16)

Exodus 22:16-17 (80)

Exodus 23:6-8 (81)

Deuteronomy 10:17-18 (197)

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 (203)

Deuteronomy 27:19 (214)

1 Samuel 8:1-3 (294)

What does God say of those who pervert justice and why they do it?

Micah 6:8 (990)

Habakkuk 1:2-4 (997)

Isaiah 5:7 (725)

What does God promise to do about injustice?

Isaiah 30:18 (752)

Isaiah 42:1-4 (765)

Ezekiel 24:14 (903)

4. What can we learn from the experience with justice of Jesus?

Matthew 12:18-20 (1038)

Luke 11:42 (1107)

Acts 8:33 (1166)

Romans 5:18-21 (1199)

Punitive (eye for an eye), rehabilitative, and restorative justice.

The relationship of justice and mercy.

5. Engaging in the Conversation

Justice under the law: Are all laws just? By what standards do we measure them?

Economic justice: what insights does Scripture provide?

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (1260)

Leviticus 19:13 (124)

Next Week: Law enforcement, punishment and consequences, equality