

GOD'S JUSTICE IN A HURTING WORLD

Sermon Series: 5 November - 17 December 2023

Study 6: Doing Justice in Our Community

A study in parallel with the sermon on 10 December

We need to look at social justice needs that are right in front of us in the Kiama area but these days, with greater connectivity, 'community' can be considered more broadly, even globally. You may wish to consider similar questions about justice issues in our state, nation, and world.

For the brave... What small short-term project could your group undertake so that you actually do justice together?

Pray that God will give you clarity about where, when, and how to serve in justice.

The origin of this series of sermons and studies is Steve's reading of Tim Keller's book, "**Generous Justice** - How God's Grace Makes Us Just".

Getting Started

Reflect again on the last question in Study 5...

- In our local community what do you perceive to be the most urgent needs in reform and action with our engagement amongst our neighbours? (*Don't spend too long on this now as we will return to it later in the study where the rubber hits the road.*)

Grounding Justice in the Word

Over the first five studies, we have looked at many Bible passages related to 'justice'. Here's another one ...

Read Isaiah 58:1-12

Are there particular verses or concepts or challenges that stood out to you in Isaiah 58 or in the biblical material we have looked at over the course of this series?

Grounding Justice in the World

Working with Others on Justice Projects

I'm sure you are familiar with the idea that we as Christians should be 'in the world but not of the world.'

- How does that relate to the possibility of working on 'justice projects' with people who are not Christians?
 - What could be the benefits?
 - What could go wrong?

How is it that some non-Christians who do not share our beliefs will still want to work for many of the same 'justice' goals?

The concepts of 'General Revelation' (see Romans 2:14-15) and 'Common Grace' (see James 1:17) are helpful here. (*If you have Keller's book, page 160 goes through these ideas.*)

Keller notes, 'Nearly everyone thinks they are on justice's side. Both pro-life and pro-choice partisans frame their position as the one that is on the side of justice.'

Beyond the particular example given, what does Keller's observation mean for working with others?

What are some 'Justice Issues' where we could easily work with those beyond the church?

Are there any 'Justice Issues' where our biblical world view and commitment to Jesus as Lord would make it difficult (or impossible) to work with non-Christians?

And so to Doing Justice in Our Community

Returning to that 'getting started' question...

- "In our local community what do you perceive to be the most urgent needs in reform and action with our engagement amongst our neighbours?"

The following questions are asking similar things in different ways. *Don't try and tick them off as individual questions but use them to prompt your thinking about what we can actually do.*

- How can we be involved in justice for the marginalised in our local community?
- What opportunities to serve are available or how can you make opportunities?
- Is there a particular justice issue for which God is softening your heart?
- Or, putting it another way, is there an issue or group of people that God is placing as a burden on your heart?
- What will you do?