

John Lomacang 2025 Q1 L6 Love and Justice

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

006 - Sunday - February 2, 2025

Title of Quarterly Lesson –
God's Love of Justice
Memory Text

Jeremiah 9:24 (NKJV) “But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.”

LOVE AND JUSTICE

In the ancient Near East, the “gods” of the nations were not only fickle, immoral, and unpredictable, but they also commanded atrocities, like child sacrifice. And even then, the pagan masses could not count on their favor, and so they dared not cross their tribal “deities.”

The God of the Bible could not be more different from these demonic forces. Yahweh is perfectly good and His character changeless. And it is only because of God's constant goodness that we can have any hope, now and for eternity.

Throughout Scripture, love and justice go together. True love requires justice, and true justice can be governed by and meted only out in love. We are not used to thinking of these two concepts together, but that is only because both love and justice have been greatly perverted by humanity.

How do these texts shed light on God's concern for justice?

1. Psalm 33:5 (NKJV) “He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.”

- God's righteousness is not separate from His justice.
- These are the attributes of God, the only God that is always good.
- The chief aim of God's justice and mercy is to **affect change in the guilty.**

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

- If God responded with wrath to every act of evil, no room would be given for men's hearts to consider repentance:

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

- 2. Isaiah 61:8 (NKJV) “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant.”**

Despite evils among the people of God, His covenant to good is an “**Everlasting Covenant.**”

Psalm 103:10-14 (NKJV) “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. (11) For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; (12) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. (13) As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. (14) For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

If God dealt with us according to our sin—none would survive:

Psalm 32:1 (NKJV) “Blessed *is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.*”

Some of the most negative responses come from those that consider themselves better than others: **Matthew 23:23 (NKJV) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”**

- 3. Jeremiah 9:24 (NKJV) “But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.”**

Until we have an intimate acquaintance with God, His judgment and mercy will be misunderstood. Many blame God for their woes and disappointments, and loss of loved ones. Many have asked, “**Why did God do allow this to happen?**”

James 1:17 (NKJV) “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

God is not good today and evil tomorrow. He never changes: **Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ““For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”**

4. Psalm 85:10 (NKJV) “Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.”

- God's unchanging love and trustworthiness merge together to bring the community into right relationship with God and each other.
- There is an intimate and inseparable relationship that connects God's Love and Justice.
- Each of God's attributes is consistent with the other.
- God does have not have contrasting characteristics.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

5. Psalm 89:14 (NKJV) “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.”

- The kingdom of God is built on the **foundation of righteousness and justice**. It is preceded by **Mercy and truth**.
- This is a picture of a processional where the recipients of God's Justice and know that it is cradled in Mercy.
- All of God's verdict are Righteous and truthful. God never departs from these attributes.

Considering God's consistent character, He expects the same of His children:

Micah 6:8 (NKJV) “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?”

#7 The Problem of Evil next lesson