



## Wednesday Night Service

December 2, 2020 ~

“Implementing Biblical Justice”

Introduction: As a church, we have opportunities to not only reach out to victims who have been taken advantage of or hurt in criminal activity, but we can also reach out to those who have done injustice to another.

Let me give you an example: I got a call from a young lady in my church who wanted to see if I could help her husband who had gotten into trouble. She had told me that he wasn't totally at fault in what happened. The two of them had a fight and he got a bit out of control. As a result, she called the police and had him arrested. As she got to thinking about things, she called me and asked if I could reach out to him and help him get his life back on track. She wanted to salvage her marriage. So, in turn I told her I would help. I went to his hearing and I told the judge that I was a pastor and would be willing to counsel the man and help him and help the couple work through their problems. The judge in turn agreed, released the man and I began to meet with them and help them seek restitution and reconciliation in their relationship as well as encouraging him to give his life to Christ.

This is an example of implementing biblical justice. The church must be a place where biblical justice must not only be proclaimed but also modeled.

Today we are going to focus on three key principles for implementing Biblical justice.

### BIBLICAL RESTITUTION

When a wrong is committed in society, Biblical justice seeks to repair the damage that was caused and to help prevent damage, not just to punish the wrongdoer.

READ: *Exodus 22:5*

In this verse, the farmer did not willfully do wrong. His animal just wandered into another man's field to graze. So, all this man really needed to do was to seek restitution. To seek restitution was basically to restore back to the man what was taken.

Key: When we do wrong or promote injustice, we have a responsibility to make things right. The church can help in this regard. Now, there are cases when things are a bit more severe and it is better for the police and the lawyers handle the case, but there are opportunities where the church could be a help.

### BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION

Churches are also in a position to help people work towards reconciliation. When injustice occurs, the consequences can go far beyond financial loss or legal issues. The relational component also needs to be resolved.

READ: *Matthew 5:23-24*

There is such thing as righteous anger. That is the kind of anger that Jesus displayed in the temple when he drove the money changers out. Nothing wrong for being angry over wrong doing. But according to this verse one man was angry at another and Jesus was telling the man to make things right before he gave his offering to the Lord. Making things right is what we refer to as reconciliation. It is bringing things back into harmony.

When has there been a time you had to seek reconciliation? Anyone want to share what happened?

### BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Finally, the church can help implement biblical justice in our communities by helping people take responsibility for their actions and lifestyles. \*That is what I did when I helped the couple in the story I shared earlier.

As the church, we must help victims of injustice find the power they need to ultimately and permanently take responsibility for their well-being and the health of their communities.

READ: *Leviticus 19:9-10*

According to this passage, “*gleaning*” provided an opportunity for the poor and defenseless to help themselves through their own labor, thus preserving dignity. It allowed people to turn their poverty into productivity.

So, how can the church help here? Rather than let a person wallow in their poverty or misfortune, which could in turn lead to injustice, help them find work and purpose so they do not have to depend on the welfare of others. When people see they can be productive, that in turn can change their life.

Remember the verse in which Jesus said “*When you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.*”