

Justice and Righteousness

Biblical references in which "justice" and "righteousness" are correlated:

- **Genesis 18:19-25**—keep the way of the Lord by doing what is just and right
- **Deuteronomy 16:19-20**—do not pervert justice or twist the words of the righteous
- **Deuteronomy 24:12-22**—act in righteousness and do not deprive of justice
- **1 Kings 3:7-28**—Solomon discerned what was right and administered justice
- **2 Chronicles 9:8**—he made you king over them to maintain justice and righteousness
- **Job 27:6-7**—Job maintained righteousness even when his adversaries were unjust
- **Job 29:14**—Job put on righteousness as clothing and justice as a robe and turban
- **Job 37:23**—in God's justice and righteousness, he does not oppress
- **Psalms 7:6-8**—God, decree justice; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness
- **Psalms 9:8-9**—He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern with justice
- **Psalms 11:7**—the Lord is righteous; he loves justice
- **Psalms 33:5**—the Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his love
- **Psalms 37:6**—righteousness will shine like the dawn, justice like the noonday sun
- **Psalms 72:1**—endow the king with your justice, the royal son with your righteousness
- **Psalms 89:14 & 97:2**—righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne
- **Psalms 98:9**—he will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity
- **Psalms 103:6**—the Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed
- **Psalms 106:3**—blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right
- **Psalms 112:5-6**—conduct affairs with justice; a righteous man will be remembered
- **Psalms 119:121**—I have done what is righteous and just
- **Psalms 140:12-13**—the Lord secures justice; surely the righteous will praise your name
- **Psalms 146:7-9**—the Lord upholds the cause of the oppressed and loves the righteous
- **Proverbs 8:20**—walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice
- **Proverbs 21:3**—to do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice
- **Proverbs 21:15**—when justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous, but terror to evildoers
- **Proverbs 28:5-12**—evil men do not understand justice; great elation when righteous triumph
- **Proverbs 29:7**—the righteous care about justice for the poor, but wicked have no concern
- **Ecclesiastes 5:8**—if see poor oppressed and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised
- **Isaiah 1:17**—stop doing wrong; learn to do right; seek justice; encourage the oppressed
- **Isaiah 1:21**—the faithful city was once full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her
- **Isaiah 1:27**—Zion redeemed with justice, her penitent ones with righteousness
- **Isaiah 5:7**—looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard distress
- **Isaiah 5:16**—God exalted by his justice and will show himself holy by his righteousness
- **Isaiah 9:7**—He will establish and uphold his throne with justice and righteousness
- **Isaiah 10:1-2**—deprive the poor of their rights and rob my oppressed people of justice
- **Isaiah 11:4**—he will judge needy with righteousness; he will give decisions with justice
- **Isaiah 16:5**—one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness
- **Isaiah 28:17**—I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line
- **Isaiah 32:1**—a king will reign in righteousness, and rulers will rule with justice
- **Isaiah 32:16**—justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field
- **Isaiah 33:5**—the Lord will fill Zion with justice and righteousness
- **Isaiah 42:1-6**—I will bring forth justice to the nations; I call you in righteousness
- **Isaiah 51:4-5**—my justice will become a light to the nations; my righteousness draws near
- **Isaiah 56:1**—maintain justice, do what is right; my righteousness will soon be revealed
- **Isaiah 58:6-8**—loose chains of injustice; then your righteousness will go before you
- **Isaiah 59:9**—justice is far from us and righteousness does not reach us
- **Isaiah 59:14**—justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance

- **Isaiah 59:15-16**—there was no justice, so his own righteousness sustained him
- **Jeremiah 9:24**—the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth
- **Jeremiah 12:1-2**—you are always righteous, yet I would speak with you about justice
- **Jeremiah 22:13**—woe to person who builds by unrighteousness or injustice
- **Jeremiah 33:15**—a righteous Branch from David’s line; he will do what is just and right
- **Ezekiel 45:9**—give up violence and oppression and do what is just and right
- **Daniel 4:37**—exalt the King; everything he does is right and his ways are just
- **Hosea 2:19**—I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion
- **Amos 5:7**—you turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground
- **Amos 5:24**—let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream
- **Amos 6:12**—you turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness
- **Micah 6:8**—to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God
- **Habakkuk 1:4**—the wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted
- **Zephaniah 3:5**—the Lord is righteous; he does no wrong; he dispenses justice
- **Malachi 3:3-5**—some bring offerings in righteousness; others deprive aliens of justice
- **Matthew 12:18-21**—I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations
- **Matthew 23:23**—neglected more important matters of law—justice, mercy, faithfulness
- **Luke 18:8-9**—he will see that they get justice; some were confident of their righteousness
- **Acts 17:31**—he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed
- **Romans 3:25**—demonstrated his justice so as to be just and the one who justifies
- **2 Corinthians 7:1-11**—perfecting holiness, repentance, and readiness to see justice done
- **Hebrews 11:33**—through faith conquered kingdoms and administered justice
- **Revelation 19:11**—he is Faithful and True; with justice he judges; his name is the Word of God

Introduction— Act Justly

Biblical justice is characterized as:

- based on the theology of God’s justice
- related to relational, covenant community issues
- partial to marginalized and lowly persons
- grounded in Old Testament covenant responsibilities
- motivated by Jesus’ proclamation and mission in the New Testament, which is worked out in the ethical teachings of Acts and the Epistles
- inspired by Jesus’ “upside-down kingdom” values
- drawn from biblical teachings rather than based on perceived cultural needs, natural law, or philosophy
- never self-serving, condescending, patronizing, or manipulative
- most concerned with the value of persons and their places in the community
- an aspect of the human role as stewards of God’s creation
- a safeguard against reducing the Bible to a manual of personal piety
- the heart of true religion with personal, active, practical care for persons who are poor, oppressed, widowed, orphaned, helpless, weak, outsiders, and marginalized

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How to Use This Resource

- **Individually**—Use the scriptures for your personal Bible study, preparing yourself for a year of learning how the Church of the Nazarene “acts justly” globally.
- **Small Group**—Discuss the characteristics above and how they apply to what you believe about justice and righteousness, then have each member of the group select several verses and tell why they are particularly meaningful.
- **Congregation**—Have several people select one characteristic and a verse and tell why they are important to Christians around the world.