

**THE REAL GOD**  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SESSION #6**  
**“Justice” (26 minute video)**

**Session notes:**

Two questions that disturb believers and unbelievers alike:

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. Why do good things happen to bad people?

The real issue is “Life’s not fair”

The deeper issue “Is God fair?”

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CreationEternity  
Life w/ God in perfect world ||| Life in a fallen world ||| Life w/ God in perfect world  
GEN. 1-2 ||| Gen 3:1<sup>st</sup> judgment <-> Rev. 20:final judgment ||| Revelation 21

Defining the Justice of God

- Revealed through the Psalmist

Psalm 97:2: “Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”

“Justice embodies the idea of moral equity. Judgment is the application of equity to moral situations and may be favorable or unfavorable according to whether the one under moral examination has been equitable or inequitable in heart and conduct.”

- A. W. Towzer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

How does God reveal His justice to us?

1. Through the natural order (Romans 1:18-20)
2. Through the human heart (Romans 2:15-16)

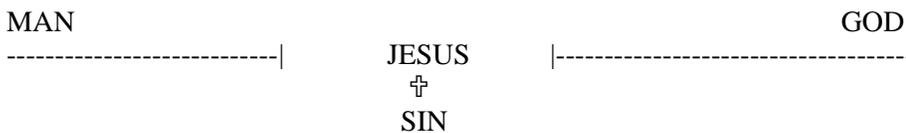
“These, then are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

3. Through His role as judge (Hebrews 12:23; 2 Timothy 4:8; John 5:22)

4. Through the cross

1 Peter 3:18: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit”



5. Through the promise of eternal retribution

Judgment of believers (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

Judgment of unbelievers (Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:11-15)

How are we to respond to God's Justice?

1. Choose to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord (John 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:18)
2. Refuse to take your own revenge (Romans 12:17-21)
3. Ponder deeply your time, talent and treasure in view of the "judgment seat of Christ" and the injustices in our world (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

**Question #1 If you could sit down with God for a cup of coffee and ask Him only one question about an unjust situation or event (whether it was in your life or someone else's life), what would you ask Him?**

**Question #2 Can your pride sometimes blind you to what is truly right and just? Give an example.**

**Question #3** Read Mark 10:18: *Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*  
**With this verse in mind explain the flaw with this question: "Why do bad things happen to good people?" What does "GOOD" actually mean?**

**Question #4** Read Romans 6:23a: *For the wages of sin is death.*

Read Psalm 103:10-13: *10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

We justly deserve eternal death because of our sin, but God will often choose to treat someone better than they deserve by extending grace, patience, kindness, mercy, or forgiveness to that person instead.

**How do you feel knowing that God will treat you this way? How do you feel knowing that God will also treat people that you think are bad, evil, or do not like in this way too? What can you learn from this?**

**Question #5** Read Genesis 50:20: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good"

Read Romans 8:28: 28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"

**Explain why we should not fret when we come up against evil. What should we do in response?**

**Question #6 Should knowing that God will ultimately make everything right and just at His judgment seat affect how we view the injustices we see in the world today? Explain.**

**Question #7** Read Romans 12:19: "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

**Explain as many issues or problems as you can if you try and take justice into your own hands through revenge against someone, instead of allowing God to do His work as the judge.**

**Question #8** Chip explains how using our time, talents, and treasures in this world matters. We should be laying up treasures in Heaven and Jesus will reward us based on our faithful living.

**Is there a commitment you would like to make right now concerning how you can live more faithfully through your time, talent, or treasures?**