

What else does the Bible say on this crucial topic? Bad company corrupts good character. We are to avoid bad company, and this includes those who hold onto false teaching, such as there is no resurrection to eternal life, and corrupt the "good morals" of those who hold fast to the true doctrine (*Dan 12:2; 1 Cor 15:33-34*). We are accepted by God, when we avoid evil company (*2 Cor 6:14-18*). We must choose our friends carefully. Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise. But a companion of fools will suffer harm (*Ps 14:1; Pr 13:20; Mt 15:14, 18-19*).

In the parable of the widow and the corrupt judge in *Luke 18:1-8*, we find that this parable was used to illustrate how a corrupt judge granted the persistent widow justice, and how much more God, who is just and righteous, will grant and secure justice quickly to His elect who cry out to Him in prayer, day and night, with perseverance and patience, while waiting upon Him. God will also grant justice to the oppressed if they are withheld justice, and the poor if they are deprived of their rights. We are encouraged to pray, persevere and never give up.

Bible admonishes us to never take vengeance ourselves, because vengeance belongs to God (*Dt 32:35; Ps 94:1-2*). It is for Him to avenge (*Pr 20:22*). Wait upon the Lord (*Ps 27:14; 37:34; Is 30:18*). We must never be overcome by evil. But always overcome evil with good. Never repay evil to anyone who wrongs us in any way (*Pr 24:29*). Instead, we do good to all, including our enemies (*Romans 12:17-21*).

We also submit to the governing authorities, unless they lead us away from God, and into sin. (*Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-14*). This means, we must never incite racial tensions, wars, violence, or protests. If at all possible, we are to live peaceably with everyone, and mind our own business. We always make the best use of our time here on earth, preaching the gospel, and serving the Lord with zeal (*Rom 12:11,18; 1 Cor 9:14; 1 Th 4:11*). Disputes, such as property court cases (not criminal cases that should be handled by the state), should be settled by qualified Christians, instead of taking them before pagan judges (*1 Cor 6:1-6*).

The ultimate justice and righteousness will occur at the end of the millennial reign of Christ with His true saints (*Rev 5:10; 11:15*), at the Great White Throne Judgment, when Christ will judge the dead (*Rev 20:11-15*). In the meantime, we are to direct people on the path of righteousness. Those who do so, will shine as the stars forever! (*Dan 12:3*).

Scriptural References:

Exodus 23:1-9
Leviticus 18 & 19
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
2 Samuel 22:21-25
Job 37:23
Psalm 5:8
Psalm 7:17
Psalm 9
Psalm 11:7
Psalm 17:15
Psalm 18:20-24
Psalm 23:3
Psalm 36:10-12
Psalm 37:5-6
Psalm 65:5
Psalm 71:15-19
Psalm 89:14-16
Psalm 94:12-23
Psalm 96:10-13
Psalm 98:2,7-9
Psalm 119:40
Psalm 140:12-13
Psalm 143:11-12
Proverbs 8:1-21
Proverbs 13:5-6
Proverbs 14:34
Proverbs 15:9
Proverbs 29:6-7
Isaiah 1:17
Isaiah 5:15-23
Isaiah 10:1-4
Isaiah 26:7-9
Isaiah 32:16-18
Hosea 12:6
Malachi 4:1-3
Matthew 12:18
Acts 10:42
2 Corinthians 7:11
Hebrews 1:9
Hebrews 11:33-34

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Justice And Righteousness



Have you ever pondered what the Bible says about justice and righteousness? If everyone obeyed the Biblical laws of justice and mercy, it would bring an abundance of blessings, including security, health, peace, happiness and prosperity. God's kingdom on earth, will bring about a perfect utopian paradise! Jesus promised that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, will be filled (*Mt 5:6*).

What does the Bible say about God's justice and righteousness?

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne (*Psalms 97:2-3*). He always makes the punishment fit the crime (*Pr 6:12-15*). God will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples with justice and fairness (*Ps 9:4, 8; 96:13; 98:9*). He will make known His righteousness to the nations. His righteous judgments are fair, true, just and unsearchable (*Job 5:9; 9:10; Ps 19:9; 145:3*). The godly are rescued from trials, and the unrighteous are kept under punishment until the day of judgment (*2 Pet 2:9-10*). The Lord Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power. He works righteousness and justice for His elect, and all the poor, needy and oppressed (*Ps 9:9-10; Lk 18:7*). God answers us with awesome deeds of righteousness (*Ps 65:5*). God's throne will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of His Kingdom (*Ps 9:7-8; 45:4, 6; Heb 1:8*). God makes His everlasting righteousness and salvation known throughout the world, and we will joyfully sing of His justice and righteousness (*Ps 101:1; 145:7*).

What are the Biblical Laws of justice and mercy? Pray to God for wisdom to be able to keep His laws, govern righteously and administer justice (*Pr 2; 8:14-16*). The Bible has much to say on this crucial topic. Here are a few examples:

1. DO NOT murder. One of the abominations that God cannot tolerate is that of the shedding of innocent blood (*Gen 9:6; Ps 55:23; Pr 6:16-17*). According to *Gen 9:6*, execution was the punishment of premeditated murder (*Ex 21:12, 14; Numbers 35:16-32*). God created man in His image (*Gen 1:26*). Therefore, murder is a demonstration of contempt not only against his fellowman, but against God Himself.

2. DO NOT spread false reports, or DO NOT slander. (*Exodus 23:1; Pr 10:6*). God hates a lying tongue (*Pr 6:16-18*). Lies will be refuted, then liar punished (*Pr 12:19; 19:5, 9*). The trouble lying mouths cause will eventually ruin them (*Pr 14:3*). May even pretend friendliness, while spreading slander (*Pr 10:6, 18*). God, as well as discretion and understanding, guards His faithful ones (*Pr 2:6-8, 11*). The righteous are delivered from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead. By knowledge of wicked schemes, the righteous escape (*Pr 11:6, 8-9*). One of the clearest signs of wisdom is the ability to control the tongue, and you will save yourself from trouble. Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and one will reap the consequences (*Pr 13:3; 18:21; 21:23*). Wicked mouths overthrow a city through deceit and sowing of discord; whereas the righteous' good influence and desire for justice, including their prosperity bring honor to the city (*Pr 11:11*).

3. DO NOT help a wicked man by being a false witness. (*Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Pr 6:16, 19*). A false witness speaks deceitfully (*Pr 12:17, 20*), and will be punished (*Pr 19:5, 9*). Proverbs emphasizes the damage caused by a false witness and the punishment he receives (*Pr 21:28*). Sudden calamity will befall him. His wicked schemes will backfire upon him, suffering the fate he devised against another (*Pr 6:15; 11:27*). What the wicked dreads, such as calamity and distress will come upon him (*Pr 10:24*).

4. DO NOT follow the crowd in doing wrong. Do NOT scheme against anyone. This is a perversion of justice. Don't conspire to do evil (*Ex 23:2*). Scripture forbids us to 'conspire,' which means to plan unlawfully and secretly against others (*Ps 37:12-15*). For example, conspiring to mistreat others, or to cause others to fall into sin. There's deceit in the minds of those who plot evil. They devise wicked imaginations (*Pr 6:13, 18; 12:20*). The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes/expectations of the wicked come to nothing (*Ps 112:10; Pr 10:28; 11:7, 23*). God will judge all who plan evil (*Pr 12:2*). You may falsely believe that no one sees you. But God Almighty sees everything (*Pr 5:21; 15:3; Jer 16:17*). All wicked ways and plans will be exposed and thwarted (*Pr 10:3, 9*). Choose your friends carefully, for the friend of fools suffers harm (*Pr 13:20*).

5. DO NOT show favoritism to a poor man in a lawsuit, or deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. (*Ex 23:3,6; Lev 19:15*). Also, do not mock the poor, as you will show contempt for their maker, since both rich and poor were created by God in His image (*Pr 14:31; 17:5*). We also honor God by treating the poor with respect. Generosity and compassion towards the poor is in a sense giving to God Himself (*Mt 25:34-40*). Kind acts include: sharing food, lending money, and defending rights (*Pr 14:21, 31; 22:9; 28:8; 29:7; 31:9*). Kindness to the poor will be rewarded (*Pr 19:17*).

6. DO NOT oppress the poor to become wealthy, or give gifts to the rich, as both will suffer want (*Pr 22:16*). Also, those who love pleasure will become poor (*Pr 21:17*).

7. DO NOT increase your wealth by charging exorbitant interest, as you will amass it for another, who will be kind to the poor. This includes exorbitant rent, fees, taxes, etc (*Pr 28:8; Jer 17:11*). Don't wear yourself out to get wealth, as it could be gone in an instant (*Pr 23:4-5*). Our trust must be in God, not riches (*Pr 11:28; Jer 17:5-8; Mt 6:33; Lk 12:15-21; 1 Tim 6:9-11*).

8. DO NOT extort money. Wealth gained through extortion or deceit will be diminished (*Pr 13:11; 21:6*).

Those who reject gain through extortion and bribes, will find security in God (*Is 33:15-16*).

9. DO NOT steal from the poor, or the afflicted. God will take up their case, and will spoil the soul of those who spoil them (*Is 17:14*). In other words, God will hear the cries of the poor who are oppressed, and the oppressors will be put to death, accordingly (*Exodus 22:21-25; Pr 1:18-19; 21:7; 22:22-23*). Also, we are to honor parents (*Ex 20:12*). Never rob or attack them, as these are serious crimes (*Pr 19:26; 21:7*).

10. DO NOT withhold good from those to whom it is due, especially the poor and needy, if it's within your power to act (*Pr 3:27-28*). For example, rather than boast in your great wealth, and the finest quality meat you indulge in, consider donating money, or buying food for those who are poor or less fortunate. Another way to demonstrate your compassion, is to offer to provide some relief for utilities, especially if you are living a wealthy life. (*1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Jn 3:17*).

11. DO NOT withhold wages from workers, including royalties from musicians. Do not exploit or take advantage of anyone. The selfish rich are warned to repent because of the coming judgments, as the hoarding of wealth will testify against and judge them. They are compared to cattle that continue to fatten themselves, until the very day they are to be slaughtered, completely oblivious of the impending misery and judgments (*James 5:1-6*).

12. Have nothing to do with a false charge, and DO NOT put an innocent or honest person to death, for God will not acquit the guilty. (*Ex 23:7*).

13. DO NOT accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous. (*Ex 23:8; Pr 15:27; Pr 22:16*). Those who hate bribes will live (*Is 33:15-16*). Greed leads to bribery (*Pr 17:8*). Hate what is evil, and love what is good, and maintain justice in the courts (*Amos 5:15*). The company of the godless will be barren, and fire will consume the tents of those who love bribes (*Job 15:34-35*). Fair trials were out of reach for the poor and helpless because of lies, oppression and acceptance of bribes (*Is 59:3-4*). Therefore, justice was deprived in the courts (*Amos 5:12*). In the day of wrath or judgment, ill-gotten treasures, such as riches gained through bribes are worthless and will not save, but righteousness will deliver from death (*Pr 10:2; 11:4; 12:12*). To acquire ill-gotten treasures through lies, is compared to a vapour that disappears (*Pr 21:6*). Our lives are shaped by our thoughts. Sinful thoughts lead to evil actions (*Pr 12:5; 15:26; 23:7*).

14. DO NOT covet. Don't desire something that belongs to someone else. Hating ill-gotten treasures will prolong your life (*Pr 1:18-19; 28:16*). Those who are greedy for gain, bring trouble upon the whole family (*Pr 11:29; 15:27*). For example, Achan's greed at Jericho, resulted in his entire family perishing. (*Josh 7:24-26*).

15. DO NOT oppress foreigners, fatherless and widows. (*Exodus 22:21-24; Pr 15:25; 23:10-11*). Defenseless people, such as the poor, aliens, fatherless and widows are the focus of God's special concern and providential care. The definition of a widow is found in *1 Timothy 5:9-16*.

God rewards us for our justice and righteousness. There are many benefits of a righteous person. Here are just a few examples:

1. The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them. (*Pr 3:5-6; 11:5-6*). Success is guaranteed! God will make it possible for us to reach our goals (*Ps 1:3; 55:22; 90:17; Pr 16:3*).

2. Attains life and immortality. Fruits of righteousness, or what a wise man produces. This includes soul winners, who win people over to wisdom and righteousness (*Pr 11:30; Dan 12:3; James 5:19-20; Jude 1:23*). We lead people on the right path. The way or path of righteousness leads to life (*Pr 12:3, 28; 21:21*). Total conversion requires God's intervention (*Jn 6:44; 14:6*).

3. He is delivered from evil and rescued from trouble. (*Pr 2:6-15; 11:6, 8*). We find an illustration in the example of Haman who was hung on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Justice prevailed, in that Mordecai was rescued, and Haman was executed instead (*Esther 5:14; 7:10*). No calamity will befall the righteous (*Pr 12:21*).

4. Peace. (*Ps 119:165; Is 26:3; 48:22*). The righteous have abundant peace. But there is no peace for the wicked.

5. He will sow righteousness and reap a sure reward. (*Pr 11:18; Gal 6:7-10*). As opposed to receiving deceptive rewards for evil or wrongdoing, because the benefits are only temporal. Sowing in peace, produces a harvest of righteousness (*Jas 3:17-18*). Respecting the word brings rewards. With wisdom, comes benefits (*Pr 13:13-14*).

6. He will prosper. (*Psalms 1; Pr 15:6*). Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous (*Pr 13:21*).

7. Blessings will crown his head. (*Pr 10:6*). The righteous will receive gifts and favors from God.

8. The memory of him will be a blessing. (*Ps 112:6; Pr 10:7*). The righteous will be remembered for their good deeds.