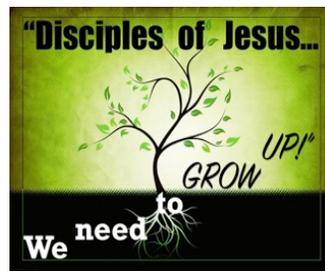


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”

Part 18: “JUSTICE ... it begins at ‘home’!”

Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; Matthew 25:331-46



Introduction: The world is desperate for justice and not finding it anywhere.

Justice IS evangelism and evangelism IS justice!

The Church, those regenerated by the Holy Spirit and adopted into God’s eternal family, are a special people with the ability to put other’s needs above their own.

I. “Justice” defined ...

“Social justice” brings about a “Robin Hood” mentality to bring about justice for the poor.

Dictionary definition of “justice”: “The quality of being just (fair), righteous ...”

Sin is the source of injustice; Christ is the source of justice.

Proverbs 28:5: “Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely!”

Justice can only be found in those indwelt by the Spirit of God.

Matthew 26:11: “For you will always have the poor among you ...”

Biblical justice comes from unconditional, sacrificial love, such as Christ displayed on the cross.

II. “Justice” revealed ...

Luke 5:1-11: Where can justice be found? Where SHOULD justice be found?

Matthew 25:31-46: “... as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me!” (vs. 40).

Mark 3:31-35: Who are “my brothers?” “Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother” (vs. 35).

Acts 9:4-5: Whatever you do to the Church you do to Christ.

Our Biblical priority AS the Church is to care for the Church!

Deuteronomy 15:7-11: “You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and poor in your land.”

Acts 11:29; Romans 12:13, 15:26-27; I Corinthians 16:1; II Corinthians 8:3-4 ... “relief for the brothers,” “the needs of the saints,” “the poor among the saints,” “collection for the saints,” “relief of the saints.”

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 6:10; James 2:14-17 ... “especially (specifically) the household of faith,” “serving the saints,” “if a brother or sister has a need ...”

The Church must be intentionally inward-focused in order to bring the Gospel to the world!

III. The “wayward church” versus the “justice-filled Church” ...

Isaiah 58:1-12 ... reveals a people good at religious activity, but not living the “justice lifestyle” that God commands for His people.

I Corinthians 11:17-26: Their “love feasts” were intended to promote equality within the Body of Christ.

Jesus prayed, “... that they may all be one ... that they may also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me” (John 17:21).

Our “oneness,” unity, justice and love for each other proves that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ!

Acts 2:42-47: As the Church lived this out, “the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (vs. 47).

Acts 4:32-35: “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul” (vs. 32) ... “There was not a needy person among them” (vs. 34).

May we be found so doing when Jesus, the Head of His Church, returns!!