

Connection Equipping Academy

Biblical Foundation // God's Character, Nature, and Attributes

Topic // *God's Justice and Righteousness*

OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

Our goal is to help equip the saints to do God's work in the World.

This week, we will progress in the growth area of knowing God as we discuss another attribute of God. We will discover how each of God's attributes reveals the truth about our misconceptions, and how we grow in the grace of the Gospel when we are renewing our minds ***daily*** in light of Who He is and what He has done.

As we are being equipped by these truths, we are going to spend several weeks talking through *four growth areas*. We'll be looking biblical foundations for each of these:

Four Growth Areas

- Knowing God
- Identity in Christ
- The Body of Christ
- God's Kingdom

In order to equip, we will practice each week looking at the Biblical passages on each topic. We will consider some of the common misconceptions and then ask four *application questions*:

- What does this tell us about God?
- What does this tell us about ourselves?
- What has God done?
- Who have we become?

INTRODUCTION

In Episode 3, we set our gaze on God's righteousness and justice. We often feel a disconnect between these attributes of who God is and our understanding of how that applies to us. God is holy and completely "other" from us and it is appropriate to feel that distinction; that separation is defining for who He is and who we are. But His righteousness and justice are always right and good. As we will discuss in further

attributes, we see even in His righteousness and justice that He is for restoration, redemption, and transformation. We see this in the coming redemption and remaking of a new Heaven and Earth, and we see it daily in the work He has committed to completing in us; the work that He began when He adopted us as His children. In His righteousness and justice, He has done all things that are for our good.

RIGHTEOUS AND JUST

Exodus 34:6-7 — *The Lord (Yahweh) — the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the fathers' iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.*

We see that God is not contradicting Himself but rather showing us how all of His attributes are in harmony. We can count on His justice in the same way that we count on His goodness. He will be faithful to be just, good in His righteousness, just in His faithfulness, and righteous in His goodness. We will not find contradictions in Him or His actions and decisions. However, we often perceive Him and our experiences wrongly. Let's look at some misconceptions that we often live under, preventing us from seeing Him and our lives as they truly are...

Misconception - “God is just a God of wrath.”

1. How do we gain this misconception?
 - a. Old Testament (out of context) and our perception of our experiences.

What gospel truth counters this misconception?

- John 3:16 - “God so **loved** the world...”
- 2 Cor. 5:21 - He Who knew no sin *became sin* for us so that we might become God's righteousness.

“If God is only about wrath, then the Cross is unexplainable.”

2. In what ways can this misconception manifest itself in a stronghold thinking pattern?
3. How does Scripture inform us to renew our minds and to think under the new thought?

Misconception - “*God is only a God of love.*”

1. How do we gain this misconception?
 - a. Our human reasoning and lies from God’s Enemy
2. In what ways can this misconception manifest itself in a stronghold thinking pattern?
3. What Gospel truth counters this misconception?
 - a. Isaiah 61:1-3
 - b. Luke 4:18-21

The day of vengeance and the year of God’s favor (rescue) - We need a balance and an understanding of how the OT/NT are in harmony and not disconnected.

- Rom 2:4-13

We are already disconnected from God, but His goodness leads us to repentance. In verse 7, God shows us that He is righteous and just in the way that He deals with each person’s choice to follow Him or to disobey Him and His law.

Misconception - “*I’m a good person.*”

1. How do we gain this misconception?
 - a. By comparing to the wrong standard if we draw it laterally.
2. In what ways can this misconception manifest itself in a stronghold thinking pattern?
3. What gospel truth counters this misconception?
 - a. The standard is holy, or *other*.
 - b. How good do you have to be?
 - i. Jer. 7:4

External righteousness and good deeds are just shadows. God is pointing to their lack of justice in action, but His focus is on their hearts. The Israelites were using the echo of “temple of the Lord” to point to their own qualification of righteousness.

What traditions or things do we echo to try qualifying our own righteousness?

- Going to church, doing good deeds, saying prayers - all of these are “good” by human standard of thinking.

Scripture tells us from the Old Testament to the new that we are justified by faith and that righteous shall live by faith. We will not be justified by our good works. We will produce fruit as a result of a justifying faith.

Consume Christ as food, daily nourishment, and He will bring out His righteousness in you that He qualified and placed in you at the moment of your salvation.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Why is the Cross required for forgiveness of sins? In the Cross, we see God display both His wrath ***and*** His love, colliding in Christ. Because of Jesus' righteousness, His payment is justice for our sin without our payment. We are free. We are His righteousness!

Application Question 1

What do we learn of God through His righteousness and justice?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Rom 3:21-26. In this passage, all our misconceptions are answered.

God will still deal with evil in the coming days because He is just and righteous. He has made a way for the forgiveness of sins but He will ultimately judge and deal with evil.

Application Question 2

What do we learn of ourselves by beholding His righteousness and justice?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

When I am wronged, my heart runs toward revenge. When God is wronged, His heart runs to rescue and redemption. Why? What is the distinction?

Application Question 3

Through His righteousness and justice, what has God done?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

1 John 4:8-10

Application Question 4

Through His righteousness and justice, who have I become?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2 Cor. 5:21

I can become like Jesus as He renews me and transforms me, by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, day by day and moment to moment.

This leads us to worship as we are renewed and transformed daily to desire as Jesus does. His desires are the same as His Father's, not because of lack of identity but because of *relationship*. Because of Jesus, we are restored to relationship with God and we have a new identity: **His**.

Recommendations

If you want more resources that stir your heart for Jesus on this topic as well as readings to continue to dig deeper, check out the two lists below!

Songs

- *He Will Hold Me Fast* — Shane and Shane
- *Power of the Cross* — Connection Music
- *Death in His Grave* — John Mark McMillan

Books

- *The Reason for God* — Tim Keller
- *Doctrine* — Gerry Breshears and Mark Driscoll