



TRUTH!

WISDOM FOR FLOURISHING PEOPLE

SERIES RESOURCES

Trust! Wisdom for Flourishing People
Do you care about your neighbor?
Proverbs 29:7

“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked show no such concern.”
-Prov. 29:7

Proverbs wants us to deeply *care* about justice.

“The righteous *care* about justice for the poor, but the wicked show no such *concern*.” -Prov. 29:7

1. To what extent should we ‘*care*’?
 - Hebrew word ‘*yada*’
 - ‘*yada*’ is describing a deep, intimate, personal knowledge of someone.
 - Who do you care about the most?
 - And why?
 - Because you KNOW them on a deep, personal level.
 - Interconnection between *yada* – caring – doing justice.
2. To cultivate a deep *care* for justice for the poor...
 - We must get to KNOW them!
 - Through personal exposure.
 - By moving towards them (ex. Jesus in the Gospels)
 - By learning their name, stories, needs etc.
 - We care because we know. We act because we care.
 - How can you get to know the poor?

Proverbs want us to know *what justice is & how to do it*.

“The righteous care about *justice for the poor*,...” – Proverbs 29:7

1. What justice is (according to the Scriptures)
 - Hebrew word ‘*mishpat*’
 - Two aspects of Biblical *mishpat*
 - Retributive justice → giving people their due punishment.
 - Restorative justice → giving people their due protection/provision.
 - **Zechariah 7:9-10:** This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true **justice [mishpat]**; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress **the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor...**’
 - In American, politics drives our conversations about justice...
 - “The Biblical understanding of justice is not rooted in virtue, rights, or the common good, but in *the character of God himself*. This means that no current political framework can fully convey the comprehensive Biblical view of justice, and Christians should never identify too closely with a particular

political party or philosophy... because their models of justice are reductionistic and incomplete.” -pg 163 Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*.

- Who is shaping our views on justice?
2. How to do justice (according to Proverbs)
- Radical generosity
 - **Proverbs 3:27-28**: “²⁷Do not withhold **good** from those to whom it is **due**, when it is in your power to act.²⁸Do not say to your **neighbor**, ‘Come back tomorrow & I will give it to you’ –when you already have it with you.”
 - Advocacy
 - **Proverbs 31:8-9**: “⁸**Speak up** for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹**Speak up** and judge fairly; **defend** the rights of the poor and needy.”
 - Partnership/friendship
 - **Proverbs 14:20**: “²⁰The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many **friends**.”
 - How can you give to? Advocate for? And partner with the poor?

Proverbs want us to be *the righteous* that do justice.

“The righteous care about justice for the poor but ***the wicked*** show no such concern.” - Prov. 29:7

1. Who are ‘*the righteous*’?
- those made ‘*right with God & therefore committed to putting right all other relationships in life*’.
 - Vertical vs. horizontal dimension
2. Vertical dimension: those first made ‘*right with God*’
- **Romans 3:22-26** “...There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”
 - How are we made ‘*right with God*’?
 - Answer: through the good news of Jesus
 - Our new identity: ***the righteous in Christ***.
3. Horizontal dimension: those now committed to being ‘*right with others*’
- Motivators for doing justice?
 - The world’s appeal (guilt) vs. Proverbs’ (grace)
 - **Proverbs 14:31** (NASB) “He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors God.”
 - God’s GRACE becomes our motivation for doing justice!
 - Are you among the righteous?

Proverbs wants us to care about justice, know to do justice, & be a people motivated to do justice.