



A Passion for Justice (part 2)

Pastor Steve Lee
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retributive justice

Romans
13:4

For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Romans
12:19

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

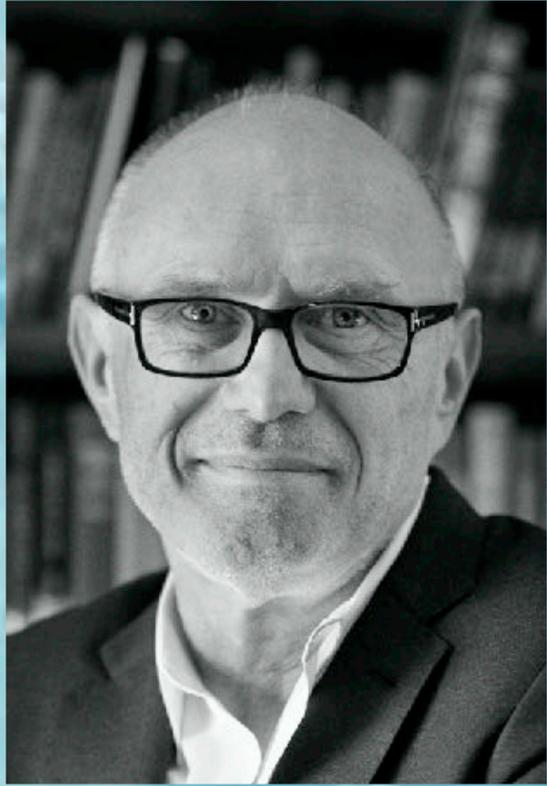




restorative justice

1 John
1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and **just** and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



Miroslav Volf

*(Free of
Charge)*

Why do we forgive instead of giving in to vengeance or pursuing retributive justice which is what, in many situations, every atom of our violated bodies and our humiliated soul scream after? Because in Christ, God overcame our sin and reestablished communion with us by forgiving sin. We do as God did. ... We forgive because "saving" our enemies and making friends out of them matters more to us than punishing them.

**Deut
10:17-19**

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Micah
6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice**, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Proverbs
3:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot
speak for themselves, for the
rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor
and needy.

James
1:27

Religion that God our Father
accepts as pure and faultless
is this: to look after orphans
and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself from
being polluted by the world.

righteousness

law

mercy

integrity

justice

service

truth

love

faithfulness



Ezekiel
16:49

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

Isaiah
1:14-17

Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of

Isaiah
1:14-17

blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; **seek justice**. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Amos 5:21-24

"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let **justice** roll on like a river, **righteousness** like a never-failing stream!

Matt
23:23-24

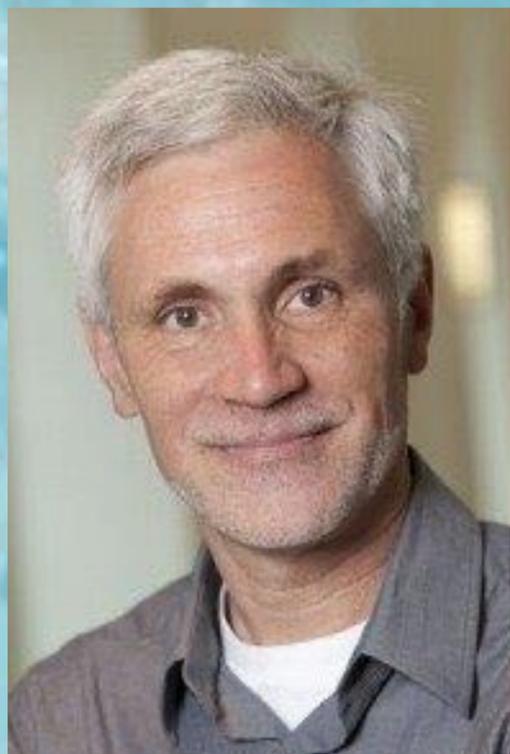
“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—**justice**, **mercy** and **faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.



STEVE IRWIN



SEA SHEPHERD



**Chris
Rice**

*(Reconciling
All Things)*

Just trying to live peacefully in one neighborhood, in one church and with one person named Spencer taught me that reconciliation is a long and fragile journey.

**Isaiah
58:6-7**

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, **and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?**”



Ken Wyttsma

*(Pursuing
Justice)*

Let's affirm common ground as we seek the ends of justice and love. Let's recognize that sin, evil, and the need for redemption exist in the human heart and in our societies. Let's agree that biblical justice includes society because the whole person matters to God—body, soul, mind, spirit—and if the whole person matters to God, the whole person must matter to us as well.



**Ken
Wyttsma**

*(Pursuing
Justice)*

Can we see the logic and biblical mandate of justice in society without needing to agree with every political mechanism that is used to promote it?

Arguing against social justice doesn't make the world more just. If you don't like the way justice is being politicized, go and do better. The answer is not to run away from justice. The answer is to give your life away.

SUMMARY

God's restorative justice brings healing to a world broken by sin.