



# LIVING WISELY IN AN AGE OF FOLLY



# WISE JUSTICE

But O LORD of hosts who judges righteously, who tries the feelings and the heart, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I commend my cause. Jer. 11:20

Righteous are you, O LORD, that I would plead my case with you, indeed I would discuss matters of justice with you. Jer. 12:1

# WISE JUSTICE

- Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, who sits on David's throne, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates. Thus says the LORD, "Do justice and righteousness and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor. Also do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. Jer. 22:2-3

# WISE JUSTICE

Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who has no helper. The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me. And I made the widow's heart sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was father to the needy, and I investigated the case which I did not know. I broke the jaws of the wicked and snatched the prey from his teeth.

Job 29:12-17

# WISE JUSTICE

- Righteous: *tsadeq*

Conformity to a standard, moral or ethical

In relationships with one another it is conduct that conforms to a standard

- Justice: *mishpat*

The execution of the law; the judgment

In relationship to righteous it is the carrying out of the law or standard

# WISE JUSTICE

- “*Mishpat* is what needs to be done in a given situation if people and circumstances are to be restored to conformity with *tsadiqah*.”

The two words when used together may have the sense of “social justice”

Christopher Wright “Old Testament Ethics for the People of God”

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

- I. Conforms to the standard of God's character and His revelation.  
“A father to the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation. God makes a home for the lonely: He leads out the prisoners into prosperity... (Psalm 68:5)

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

- 2. Observes how God manifests His character in His providential dealings with people, and His expectations in the social relationships of His image bearers.

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

The distrust of providence in history is seen not only in the disposition to strip away from civil government its power to wield the sword effectively in response to aggression, but especially in the growing reliance upon revolution and violence to achieve social and political changes through a forfeiture of rational, orderly and democratic procedures... What underlies this readiness forcibly to overthrow and transform basic social structures and to redirect the whole direction of history in the interest of the mythology of utopian revolution is the wholesale rejection of the divine Creation – providence – regeneration – consummation motif.

Carl Henry in “God, Revelation & Authority”

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

- 3. Social Justice has some biblical parameters:
  1. Defending the defenseless (widows/orphans)
  2. Applying the law without partiality (social, gender or ethnic class)
  3. Holding lawmakers accountable
  4. Conducting business in conformity to ethical and moral standards
  5. Helping the disadvantaged (poor) as not merely charity, but providing equal opportunity; but equality is not egalitarian

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

- 4. Translates the immutability of God's character into historically relevant applications:
  - Understanding biblical absolutes and cultural norms
  - Engaging in effective policy making
  - Becoming personally involved in providential opportunities

# WISE JUSTICE: BIBLICAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Lockland Ministry; Metanoia Center
- City Gospel Ministry; Courage to Change and Exodus
- International Student Ministry: GLP
- Jeevan Aadhar: (human trafficking)
- Matthew 25 volunteers