

Simply Christian: (#3) Why do we expect justice?
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Our argument in this series is that Christianity satisfies every human's innate longings. The internal cry of our heart, or lives, who we are or who want to be at our core. This week in our four-part series, Simply Christian, I'm tackling why we expect justice.

Why do we expect justice?

The Christian narrative tells the story of a good and just God who is concerned with his creation; it tells the story of God who has been working to put the world to rights, to deal with injustice and the problem of evil. (Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalms 9:16a, Psalms 11:7a, Psalms 89:14, Psalms 99:4, Psalms 103:6)

God's justice is a saving justice

God has mounted a personal rescue operation. He has set about to put the world to rights. This rescue operation starts after the first humans rebel against the creator God and put the creation out of sorts. [God's judgment comes in the form of exile from the garden, but God sets about to bring his salvation to the creation.] And the cool thing about this rescue operation is God chooses to team with creation to bring about his salvation. (Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 42:1-4)

God's justice is a healing justice

We know personally that injustices done to us are not quickly undone. Sometimes it takes a lot of work, prayer, grace, and time to heal the scars of abuse, rejection, and neglect. The Psalms echo our internal cry, 'How long, O Lord?' (Isaiah 61:1-2a).

God's justice a restorative justice

God wants to end our exile. He wants us to find peace, and rest. He wants us to come home. He wants to deal with the 'multiple problems that have resulted from human rebellion', he wants to heal our wounds, he wants to heal our hearts, and he wants to restore the creation to original glorious intention.

God's restorative justice came about through his servant, Jesus, and his obedience to death, death on a Roman cross, bringing about God's restorative justice. (*Isa 53:3-5*)

What is expected of us?

The biblical narrative is clear on this subject. We serve a God who demands justice, he demands it of the community of love (Micah 6:8).

It's a demand on our humanity; it's demand on our very lives. It's also a sign. It's a sign to a fallen world that the God of the universe is alive and concern.

To do justice: means to take up the cause of the weak, the oppressed, the ignored, and the exploited, to champion their voice and concerns. We get bring justice to those who need it. It's a battle cry to those of us who want to be the light of the world. What better way to shine our light than to do justice in our families, at our workplace, in our community, and in our world?

Recommended Books

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense
by N.T. Wright

The Prophets
by Abraham J. Heschel

Evil and the Justice of God
by N T Wright