



The Bible and Politics



The Bible and the Justice

Review of the series

The bible and justice

Crime is against people not the state

Crimes against property are rectified by restitution and compensation

There were no prisons in Israel!

A Call to Righteousness

The meaning of righteousness and justice

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring **justice** to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth **justice**; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes **justice** on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” (Isaiah 42:1–4)

Be right with God

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

Be right with people

I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him. The man who was dying blessed me; I made the widow’s heart sing. I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth. (Job 29:12–17)

Questions for Homegroups

1. Review the texts above about righteousness and justice and consider
How Jesus exemplified righteousness
How we may imitate this.
2. What do you think are the most important justice issues for our nation? How might that affect your vote?
3. What do you think are the most important issues of “righteousness” for us as a church? (Why not email the pastor about it?)
4. What do you think are the most important things that you need to act on personally from this? Consider especially Job 29.

Resources on Criminal Justice

The Restorative Justice Consortium

<http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk>

This website will introduce you to basic principles of restorative justice, which in my view are profoundly biblical.



The Jubilee Centre & Relationships Foundation

www.jubilee-centre.org

www.relationshipsfoundation.org

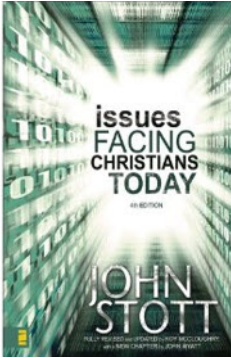
The founder of the Jubilee Centre, Michael Schluter is a passionately committed to putting relationship at the heart of the political agenda. He has done much

pioneering work.



Schluter has also founded *The Relationships Foundation* which aims to put relationships at the heart of public policy. The organisation has been instrumental in pointing out that prison causes relational breakdowns which in turn increase recidivism.

Recommended Books



New Issues Facing Christians Today John Stott (IVP)

Excellent primer both on matters relating to national issues of justice but also on the importance of personal godliness and righteousness.

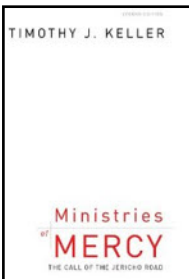
THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AT A SPECIAL PRICE OF £10.00.

Votewise Now! Rose Lynas (Ed.)

A really useful book covering a range of issues. There is a chapter on criminal justice by Jonathan Burnside.



Ministries of Mercy Tim Keller



Keller makes the broader case for Christians being involved practically in the world.