

I. The requirements of justice

- A. Trust in God's providence (22:28; see Isaiah 8:21; 1 Kings 21:10; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
- B. No unfairness *on behalf of* the poor (23:3; see Deuteronomy 16:20)
- C. Refusal to be a part of unfair judgment (23:1-2)
- D. Refusal to make a false charge against someone (23:7)
- E. Refusal to make a false judgment against someone (23:7)
- F. Refusal to take a bribe (23:8)
- G. Care of and justice toward personal enemies (23:4-6)

II. How do we carry out justice?

- A. As co-workers, neighbors, classmates
  - i. refuse to participate in gossip (to hear it, to spread it)
  - ii. help people out, especially when they are at your mercy
  - iii. do not accept gifts from people to whom you owe justice
- B. As parents
  - i. be patient, and listen to your kids
  - ii. bathe justice in mercy
  - iii. lies about other kids should be cracked down on
  - iv. do *not* have a favorite kid
- C. As family members
  - i. be careful about the family grapevine – it can become gossip too
  - ii. love is practical
- D. As church members
  - i. in some ways justice calls us to *unity*
  - ii. in these ways justice may call us to *dissent*
- E. We are called to be just in every area of life. (see Galatians 2:6)

III. Justice, politics, and war

- A. The nation's decisions are *our* decisions
- B. We depend on reliable information
- C. Nations judge hastily, wickedly, under pressure from others, when going to war
- D. We may well have judged wickedly in invading Afghanistan and Iraq
- E. Judge justly in your role as a citizen of the United States, your state, your town

IV. The righteous Judge

- A. God's impartiality in justice (see Psalm 94:9; Matthew 5:44-45)
- B. God's impartiality in grace (see Acts 10:34)
- C. The cost of justice (see 2 Corinthians 5:21)