

Justice, Race, and the Bible:

Inequality and Injustice

Selected Scripture

I. Inequality and Injustice Defined

- A. Inequality: not _____, or not the _____.
- B. Injustice: a failure to fulfill your _____ to your _____.

II. Inequality in the Bible

A. In God's Creation

1. Days 1-3 – Light and darkness, above and below, land and sea.
2. Days 4-5 – greater and lesser, sea creatures and flying creatures.
3. Day 6 – land creatures and man, dominion, male and female.

B. In Biblical History

1. Different actions have different outcomes. *Gen 4:7, 10-12, 23-24*
2. Different customs, skills, preferences, longevity. *Gen 4:20-22; 5*
3. Different lands, languages, clans, nations. *Gen 10:5, 11, 19, 30; 11:8*

C. In the Church: different gifts, services, activities, ethnicities, stations, parts, honor, and priority. *1Cor 12:4-6, 13, 20, 23, 28*

III. Injustice in the Bible

- A. At the _____ level. *Hos 12:7; Mic 6:11; Jer 22:13; Jam 5:4*
- B. At the _____ level. *Ps 94:2-7; Ezek 9:9; 22:6-7; Isa 5:7; Mic 3:1; Jam 2:6*
- C. At the _____ level. *Ps 94:20; Isa 10:1-2; 59:4; Ecc 5:8*

IV. Inequality and Injustice Distinguished

- A. Inequalities exist even when there is _____. *Matt 20:1-16; 25:14-30; Lk 19:11-27*
- B. Injustices exist even when there is _____.
- C. Evidence of inequality in outcome is not evidence of injustice in the system, no matter how great the inequality may be.
- D. Therefore, judging based on inequality alone is an injustice.
- E. Recognize the danger of popular proofs for systemic injustice.
 1. Systemic injustice deals with injustice in the system itself (e.g., laws) or predominant injustice in the members of the system.
 2. Beware of well intentioned “solutions” to inequalities that actually lead to _____ injustices.

Psalm 94

1 O LORD, God of vengeance,
O God of vengeance, shine forth!
2 Rise up, O judge of the earth;
repay to the proud what they deserve!
3 O LORD, how long shall the wicked,
how long shall the wicked exult?
4 They pour out their arrogant words;
all the evildoers boast.
5 They crush your people, O LORD,
and afflict your heritage.
6 They kill the widow and the sojourner,
and murder the fatherless;
7 and they say, "The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob does not perceive."

12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD,
and whom you teach out of your law,
13 to give him rest from days of trouble,
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
14 For the LORD will not forsake his people;
he will not abandon his heritage;
15 for justice will return to the righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

16 Who rises up for me against the wicked?
Who stands up for me against evildoers?
17 If the LORD had not been my help,
my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.
18 When I thought, "My foot slips,"
your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.
19 When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.
20 Can wicked rulers be allied with you,
those who frame injustice by statute?
21 They band together against the life of the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my stronghold,
and my God the rock of my refuge.
23 He will bring back on them their iniquity
and wipe them out for their wickedness;
the LORD our God will wipe them out.