



Christ, the church and justice

How faithfulness to the goodness of Jesus in the world is integral to the integrity of the church and the vibrancy of our lives.



Legacy of Christian Justice

1. Christian faith has greatly increased justice in the world in many ways
2. This is consistently denied
3. Injustice is always re-emerging

“Reformed and always reforming.”



What injustice would we care about?

Abortion and intentional infertility
Sex trafficking and exploitation
Financial usury and rent seeking economics
Medical structure, incentives and care tyranny
Pollution and environmental conservation
Immigration, lawlessness and harm
Racism, bigotry and prejudice
Unacceptable inequality
Leadership negligence & bureaucracy corruption
Educational quality and availability
Food access and quality
Protecting children and challenging children
Punishment and incarceration

What is our calling?

Jeremiah 29- Live in and for the good of the city

Matthew 5:13-14

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

(this is the **proposition** of the sermon on the mount- Jesus most "public life" sermon.)



**Illumination and
preservation**





We need the vision, attitude and voice of Jesus

Now as much as ever.



1. Vision: We win by losing until God's justice and mercy win

Eschatological opto-pessimism

Eschatological opto-pessimism



Even the gods die in the face of evil, but one rises indestructible.





Implications?

1. We are hopeful- *post tenebras lux*
2. We are resolved
3. We are honored
4. We are joyful
5. We are active





2. Attitude: We are here to serve

The attitude of Jesus is the real purpose of your life.



You are here not to be served, but to serve.

Consumption is not your purpose



Mark 10:42-45

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But **it shall not be so among you**. But whoever **would be great among you must be your servant**, and whoever would be **first among you must be slave of all**. For even **the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



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Matthew 23:8-13

"But you are not to be called, 'Rabbi', for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth, 'father', for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called, 'teacher', for you have one Teacher, the Christ. ***The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.***



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Matthew 10:7-10 (First Commission)

As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.** Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.



Philippians 2:5-13

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, **taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! **Therefore God exalted him** to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...



Philippians 2:10-13

...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--
continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.







3. Voice: Prepare to speak up as one that cares.

Jesus was not so much a nice person as a prophetic martyr reformer



1 Peter 3:12-17

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened...



1 Peter 3:12-17 ("asks" - Mat 5:42, Lk 6:30)

...But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always **be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this **with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience**, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.



3. Voice:

Prophetic voice

This is just!



Respect of authority

Authority is a grace and necessity

Social Solidarity

I'm with you though we're enemies



Final Applications:

1. Justice, even 'Social Justice' is our concern. together.
2. Be disciplined for courage. It's gonna be rough and good.
3. Don't waste your life in entertainment and consumption
- 4. Freely give, more blessed to give, serve...**
5. Shape you heart to love duty to the good- enjoy it!
6. Don't stand up for yourself, stand for the good.
7. Seek mercy and justice in the local church
8. Do justice in concentric circles moving outward
9. At least support imperfect voices for good.
10. Practice finding your voice (by...)
11. Set apart Christ as Lord in your heart

