

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" - Amos 5:24

Paths of Justice

Wisdom and Justice

I have never made a direct connection between wisdom and justice until reading the opening verses of the book of Proverbs: "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel – to know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing in righteousness, justice and equity."

These words tell us that the life and priorities of a wise person are shaped by a just concern for the deprivations of others who are made in God's image. Wisdom dictates that we, as individuals and as a church, do things that provide justice and equity. Along those lines, let me share with you a note that our church received from Margo Seybold, who accompanied Latosha for the baby shower at our church in October:

Dear Church Family at Faith Community Church,

Many, many thanks for the over-the-top shower you organized for the birth of J'aire. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity was heartfelt and very much appreciated. The presence of God is in your church. I can't thank you enough for sharing the light of Jesus!

In Christ's light and love, Margo and Tosha

Wow! That's wisdom, according to King Solomon. Also, let me express gratitude to all who participated in Angel Tree, as well as the baby bottle campaign, which raised \$426.89 for PDHC. Keep living wisely! - Pastor Nick

Strides in Justice for Preborn Babies

In addition to what we raised from the baby bottle campaign, our church gave an additional \$300 from our missions budget to PDHC as they fulfill their mission of righting injustice. 2017 became a record-breaking year for PDHC, serving a total 12,199 people! Through your help, many babies, moms, and families were strengthened and able to celebrate their first Christmas together.

There were also significant accomplishments

legislatively in Ohio. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act went into effect in March, which protects preborn babies at 20 weeks post-fertilization. The 2016 Ohio Abortion Report showed the lowest number of abortions in 40 years. The Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act was passed, which prevents abortion from being carried out on an unborn child on the basis of that child having Down syndrome. Praise God for the protection of more lives!

Unearthing Truth Through Injustice

"You're gonna have to serve somebody / Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord / But you're gonna have to serve somebody." So sang Bob Dylan. Finding Dylan's song embarrassing, John Lennon wrote "Serve Yourself" in response, asserting: "You gotta serve yourself / Ain't nobody gonna do it for you." Yet he unwittingly affirmed Dylan's underlying point, namely, that there is someone you serve.

Some of the darkest parts of our culture have been rediscovering some lost truths through the bitter fruit of serving yourself. The news of sexual abuse became one of the biggest stories of 2017, with dozens of people, often powerful men, in the media, entertainment, professional careers, education, and public office being accused of various forms of sexual harassment. Many have lost their positions and good names. (over)



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Definition of injustice: Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

"[God] upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous."

- Ps. 146:7-8

Unearthing Truth Through Injustice - Continued

To be sure, some may have been [falsely accused](#), and even [hundreds of thousands of dollars](#) have been spent to get people to accuse political rivals. Many others, however, have been found guilty. Sex-obsessed predators have taken advantage of women who describe their encounters as the most degrading and humiliating experiences of their lives. Drugs and alcohol are often involved as well. #MeToo reports many sad stories. At some point in their lives, about [19 percent of women and 2 percent of men](#) experience the most extreme form of sexual abuse, while 44 percent of women and 23 percent of men face some other type of sexual violence. Approximately [20,000 service members](#) in a given year said they experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact, many of which were violent, extreme forms of it.

Many promoters of the sexual revolution have been shocked by these developments. It's a bitter irony, though, that those who have fought for unrestrained sexual expression are now surprised at the victimization. Still, it's better to learn the hard way than not at all. In [one opinion piece](#) called "Let's Rethink Sex", Christine Emba notes that the culture got off track sexually by assuming that we all deserve a certain amount of sex and that nothing should get in the way of satisfying our desires.

Believe it or not, she even says that we ought to return to some of the old virtues—including "prudence, temperance, respect and even love." Tragically, however, she comes up short in saying, "It's unlikely that we'll return to a society in which

sexual encounters outside of marriage are disallowed or even discouraged—that sex train has already left the fornication station, if it was ever properly there to begin with."

The problem is that such behavior only leads to many a train wreck, as well. The consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, divorce, illegitimacy, and abortion are some of the most serious epidemics of our time. What it all points us back to is the goodness of how God originally designed sex to join man and woman together and to

produce precious bundles of joy made in God's image.

Speaking into a depraved Roman culture, [Paul said](#), "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

We need to return to God's grace and truth that though sin desires to have you, you must

master it. Consider each area of your life: what you think about, what you watch or listen to, what you wear, how you view or treat others, where you go, and how you spend your money. In which area are you serving yourself more than the Lord, which do you need to surrender to Him? God calls us and enables us to live lives that are holy and pleasing to Him. How can our lives so shine that they display the wonder of who God is and point others to the awesome good news that He has entrusted to us?

FOR ME AND MY
AS {HOUSE}
we will serve
THE LORD

Opportunities / Activities

- We are following up with those we served through Angel Tree. Please let us know if you can help.
- Religious Freedom Sunday is coming up on Jan. 14 – [here](#) are steps to take.
- Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is on Jan. 21 – [here](#) are steps for that.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue, on abuse issues among others.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.