

**“Will Not God Give Justice
to His Elect?”**

Sermon Notes

- **Don't ever grow weary in praying for what God has promised (v.1)**

**If we are going to prevail in prayer as a church, then we absolutely must...*

1. Remember who we're _____ to (vv.2-5)

2. Remember who we _____ to (vv.6-8)

Next Week: Luke 18:9-14 – “The Peril of Pride & the Honor of Humility”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of September 16th – 22nd

Getting Started

1. Over the last several years (and the last several months especially) there has been an increasing amount of discussion among evangelical Christians on the topic of “social justice”. If you are aware of these recent discussions, what have you heard? How might you assist the group in getting a sense of this issue?

Digging Deeper

2. How do you define “social justice”? A large part of the current controversy has to do with the definition of this term. Is social justice merely a synonym for love for one's neighbor (Matthew 22:39) or good works (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14)? Or is social justice inherently and unavoidably connected with unbiblical concepts, policies and practices?¹

Here's another hot question: “Is social justice a *gospel issue*?” Pastor Kevin DeYoung wisely replies: “Is social justice a gospel issue? That depends on what we mean by 'social justice' and what we mean by 'gospel issue.'”² Touché. So, what do you think? Once we define social justice, we ought to be able to ask and answer this next question. *Is social justice a gospel issue?* Why or why not?

Open Your Bible to Luke 18:1-8...

3. Read through this parable together as a group. How many times does the word “justice” appear? In context, what is justice (vv. 3, 4, 7 and 8)? How ought we to define it biblically? Is biblical justice different than social justice? According to this passage, who is responsible for establishing justice?

4. In your group, go to <https://statementonsocialjustice.com/> . Read and discuss the introduction to the statement. As time permits, read through the 14 affirmations and denials found on the site (including the section on the history and formulation of the statement). What are your initial thoughts? Do you tend to agree or disagree with the statement? Why?

¹ Such as liberation theology, cultural marxism, intersectionality, and critical race theory. If these terms are new to you, please listen to this helpful interview that radio host David Wheaton gave with Phil Johnson this past summer. Wheaton and Johnson do an outstanding job unpacking these concepts:

<https://www.thechristianworldview.org/topic-are-you-awake-to-the-woke-movement/> .

² <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/social-justice-gospel-issue/> . Accessed 9/14/18 @ 3pm.

5. By God's grace, to this point, the growing controversy over social justice is largely an in-house discussion among conservative evangelical brothers and sisters. That is to say there are good, solid, and godly individuals that both agree and disagree with the Statement on Social Justice (SOSJ). On the other hand, there are also those outside the evangelical world who strongly disagree with the SOSJ. In order to make that point clear, go to: <https://mobile.twitter.com/UnionSeminary/status/10373464216320000> and read the affirmations and denials penned by the historically liberal protestant Union Theological Seminary.

What do you make of this? Can you see why our evangelical brothers and sisters who do disagree with the SOSJ nonetheless deeply resent being lumped in together with the sort of theological liberalism represented by the Union Seminary statement?

6. We confess in our EFCA Statement of Faith that we desire to “live out our faith with...compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed.” How ought we to approach and pursue these biblical mandates³ without falling into that which the SOSJ cautions and warns us of?

Earlier this year, the national EFCA Theology Conference topic was: “The Gospel, Compassion and Justice, and the EFCA”. If you're interested to know where our broader movement falls with respect to this issue, these two links will be of some help. Here are each of the main sessions of the conference: <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/gospel-compassion-and-justice-and-efca> , and this link will take you to a post-conference discussion featuring Greg Strand who serves as the Director for Theology and Credentialing of our national movement: <https://www.efca.org/blog/reaching-all-people/where-do-we-go-here> .

7. Close your time together as a group by praying through Luke 18:1-8. At the same time, pray for more light to be shed on this discussion as well as for the preservation of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace among conservative evangelicals (Ephesians 4:1-3). Pray, too, for our EFCA movement, that we would walk a faithful path as we seek to engage with this issue biblically.

³ For example, the biblical case for our mandate to live out our faith with justice for the oppressed is strong: Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 21:3; 29:7; 31:8-9; Jeremiah 22:16; Isaiah 1:16-17. This is merely a sampling of such commands. Can you think of others?