Justice

• "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, (Exod. 23:2 NIV)

• "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. (Exod. 23:6 NIV)

• "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. (Lev. 19:15 NIV)
Justice

- Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. (Deut. 16:19 NIV)
- Amos 5:21-24
- Micah 6:6-8
What is justice?

• The original Hebrew and Greek words are the same as those rendered "righteousness." This is the common rendering, and in about half the cases where we have "just" and "justice" in the King James Version, the American Standard Revised Version has changed to "righteous" and "righteousness." It must be constantly borne in mind that the two ideas are essentially the same. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
Justice and Mercy

• Two fundamental aspects of God’s nature.
• Since we are made in his image, two essential aspects of who we are to be.
• Mercy alone:
  • Anarchy - no right or wrong for anyone - nothing matters.
• Justice alone:
  • No hope for anyone
  • “Right” is determined by might - power or loudest voice
We live in a world of sin:

- We are surrounded by injustice - unrighteousness.
- We have been since Eden and we always will be.
- *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*“ (Jn. 16:33 NIV)
- 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
- 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Tim. 3:12-13 NIV)
Jesus and Injustice

- Jesus and John (Matt. 11:1-19; 14:1-14; Luke 23:5-12)
  - "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. (Jn. 12:47 NIV)
- The woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8:1-12)
- Paul and Peter (Gal. 2:11-21)