



Justice

Growth Plan Guide Centennial Covenant Church

- For scripture, take out John 4. I love it, but it takes too much exegesis to properly explain, which isn't really the point here. Maybe there is a way to reference the location of the sermons on our Centennial Covenant Podcast or our website or YouTube? Simply so that people can go find them again if they like.
- Add Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 1:17 to the scripture section.
- I wonder whether referencing the Centered podcast would also be good. We talk specifically about breath prayer in the first five episodes of the first season, so that could be referenced as a resource in the places you mention breath prayer.
- Another note, I really love the breadth of resources you reference. Good stuff.
- Resources: Tattoos on their Hearts, by Father Gregory Boyle, Rethinking Incarceration by Dominique DuBois Gilliard. For learning about a specific issue of justice in the United States, written by an ECC author. Becoming a Just Church

What is justice?

Just behavior or treatment. The quality of being fair or reasonable. The administration of law or authority.

-- The Webster's Dictionary

"Justice is a commitment to restore God's creation to God's intention. The essence of justice is found in reconciliation between God and His people. It is about how we treat the least of these."

---Pastor Karl Helvig, Sermon on Justice May 9, 2021

Scripture References

Matthew 25:34-40

Micah 6:8

Isaiah 1:17

Related Character Qualities

A person who is: compassionate, appropriately concerned, service oriented, caring, an advocate

Cognitive Learning Resources

Note: Not all resources necessarily represent the views of Centennial Covenant Church nor are all resources listed always from a faith based tradition. The goal is to find the gems in the resource even if not all that is engaged is agreed upon by the reader.

- [Sermon on Justice](#), by Pastor Karl Helvig at CCC.

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- Read through the prophets in scripture to learn about the heart of God as a just God.
- Do a study of Jesus and his life of compassion by reading through the book of John
- [No Greater Love](#) by Mother Teresa
- Selections from [The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others](#) by Scot McKnight
- [Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life](#) by Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill and Douglas Morrison
- [The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus](#) by Mark Labberton
- [Reconnecting With Compassion](#), A Ted Talk by Krista Tippett
- [The Practice of Empathy](#), a short video by Brene Brown.
- [Tatoos on the Heart](#) by Father Greg Boyle.
- [Rethinking Incarceration](#) by Dominique DuBois Gilliard, an ECC author.
- [Becoming a Just Church](#) by Adam Gustine, an ECC author.

Practices That May Nurture Justice

Note: Please review *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Calhoun to see if anything inspires you.

- Take a concrete step in an area of justice that has caused you to grieve.
- Engage in the practice of serving those you tend to ignore or judge (even if you are certain you are correct and they are wrong).
- Engage in the practice of relieving others suffering by acts of kindness and service. Watch for opportunities to serve and work to respond to the need
- Cooperate with God's work to grow you in justice/compassion by engaging in the practice of saying thank you and the practice of asking for help. In order to give compassion, one needs to learn to receive compassion from God by receiving it from people. It's common to deflect praise or encouragement. Instead it might be to simply say thank you to others when praised. Say, "I needed to hear these words." Another idea is to ask others to help in big and small ways.
- Engage in the practice of meditating and prayer on Psalm 145:8. Use a journal as a place to record prayers for those God brings to mind.
- Pray those who have hurt you (perhaps they are your enemies). If you have suffered abuse, this type of practice might not be helpful at this time. Seeking a counselor who specializes in working with abuse might be beneficial.
- Practice empathetic listening to someone who has been abused or hurt by others.
- Practice lingering in relationship and in situations. Don't be as much in a hurry to "get through."