



## LOVE IS JUSTICE.

Christians can sometimes have the reputation of always being "up-in-arms" about one thing or another. Of course, there are negative consequences when we're seen as being against so many things.

But the people of God are called to justice. It doesn't have to look like being "against" everything - but, instead, to be actively *for* people who are under-served, under-valued, or being taken advantage of.

Sometimes love looks a lot like fighting for the people who aren't in position to fight for themselves. Sometimes love looks like shouting for the people who don't have a voice. Sometimes love looks like education and awareness. Sometimes it looks like volunteering your time to certain organizations, voting for certain policies, or opening up your doors to people who need safety.

This is what we do know - love *is* justice. It might hurt. There may be consequences. Love, a lot of the time, is hard.

But heaven is going to be the most diverse place - full of different stories, colors, and families. Don't you want to be a part of filling it up?

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **Acts 16:16-24**

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. 19 When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

## **Micah 6:8**

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

## **James 1:27**

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

# QUESTIONS.

*Feel free to discuss any or all of these questions.*

- 1.) What do you glean from Paul's story in Acts?
- 2.) Along with justice, what does Micah include in what the "Lord requires of you,"? How do you think those things go together?
- 3.) What are some ways you can start being involved in justice?
- 4.) If you heard Sunday's sermon, what was one thing you took away from the interview with the CCAHT representatives?

## **TAKE TEN:**

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?