

# Justice

**To seek the good, protection, gain, and fair treatment of others.**

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.*

*And what does the Lord require of you?*

*To act justly and to love mercy*

*and to walk humbly with your God.*

*Micah 6:8*

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”*

*Matthew 23:23*

*The incarnating disciplines open us to God’s heart. They invite us to participate in God’s kingdom agenda: his love of justice, his concern for the poor and the oppressed, the widow, and the orphan. These are ways we express our faith, hope, and love in the midst of a selfish, entitlement world. Incarnation took Jesus to the last breath of self-donating love. And if we intend to follow him, we can expect that truly “loving our neighbor as ourselves” will take us to depths of self-donating love. In those depths we are in the heart of worship.*

*from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*

## Practicing Justice

There are many places injustice occurs. How can we respond as individuals and as a community? How can we become practitioners of justice in both the everyday sense and the restorative sense? How do you feel about the word “justice” and where might God be nudging you to engage more?

- Take the time to read books about racism, sexism, and poverty, particularly written by people who have suffered from those injustices.
- Look for instances of injustice in our own community and our country. Who is suffering from unfair policies, inequity, or voicelessness? How can we help change policy, extend equity, elevate voices, and share power?
- Consider what gifts you have that could be shared with others, whether wealth, talents, time, friendship, solidarity, or advocacy.
- Pray that God will make you more like him, someone who seeks the good, protection, gain, and fair treatment of others.

## For further reading

*Shalom and the Community of Creation* by Randy Woodley

*Who Will Be a Witness?* by Drew G.I. Hart

*Womanist Theological Ethics* by Emilie Towne

*Rediscipling the White Church* by David Swanson

*Reading the Bible with the Damned* by Bob Ekblad

*Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle