

## **A Perennial Problem for the Church Biblical Justice vs. Social Justice**

### **Introduction –**

The Church is to be a witness to the watching world. Matt 28, Col. 1:28

The Church is to protect itself from dangers both inside and outside. Acts 4-6

The Church needs to have a strategy that is both Offensive and Defensive.

- *“Preach the word in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction.”* (2 Tim 4:2)
- *Guard the truth entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.”* (1 Tim 6:20)
- *“See to it that no one take you captive by philosophy and empty deceit according to human tradition, according to elementary spirits of the world and not according to Christ.”* (Col. 2:8)

### **I. Definition and Meaning**

#### **A. Point**

1. Oxford Dictionary of the English language

“Social justice is a noun, chiefly politics and philosophy..... Justice at the level of a society or state as regards the possession of wealth, commodities, opportunities and privileges.... see distributive justice.”

2. William H. Young, “social justice has evolved to generally mean state redistribution of advantages and resources to disadvantage groups to satisfy their rights, and social and economic equality.”
3. Social justice is state redistribution. Social justice is not about individuals; it’s about groups, and outcomes for groups.

Social justice is an analysis of how power, privilege and oppression impact our experience of our social identities, not the reality of our social identities, but the experience of our social identities.

Social Justice includes a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is equitable.

4. Social Justice is the ultimate “Trojan horse” term, where it seems to mean one good thing, as most people understand it, but actually means something else.

#### In America

This system of theology has invaded the church before. The Social Gospel. Walter Rauschenbush (Baptist Pastor) “Christianity and the Social Crisis” 1907

*“The essential purpose of Christianity was to transform human society into the kingdom of God by regenerating all human relations and reconstituting them in accordance with the will of God.” The fundamental purpose of Jesus was the establishment of the kingdom of God, which involved a thorough regeneration and reconstitution of social life. Primitive Christianity cherished an ardent hope of a radically new era, and within its limits sought to realize a social life on a new moral basis.... Thus Christianity as an historical movement was launched with all the purpose and hope, all the impetus and power, of a great revolutionary movement, pledged to change the world-as-it-is into the world-as-it-ought-to-be.” (Post millennialism)*

### In South America

Liberation Theology- Sociological Outcomes (See Dictators)

Christian Social Theory to over through oppression and oppressors. A movement of Christian theology, developed mainly by Latin American Roman Catholics, that emphasizes liberation from social, political, and economic oppression as an anticipation of ultimate salvation. 1960's Gustavo Gutierrez Oriented Toward Post Millennialism.

“Justice for the world” theme chosen by Catholic Bishops 1971. This led to the Black Liberation theology movement and Palestinian Liberation theology.

### B. Counter Point

#### Social justice vs. biblical justice: Issues of World View

- The difference lies on how we define injustice.
- Biblical perspective - justice is a heart issue and a word-of-God issue.
- The Bible would define injustice as that which fails to comply with/ rise to the level of the word of God.
- Social justice: justice as anything that produces and allows an equitable outcome. The parable of the talents would be injustice. God would also be unjust. The world, as God designed it, would not qualify as socially just.
- Frederick Hayek (1940) says he wishes he could use all of his energies and efforts to make the writers and speakers that he could influence, ashamed to use the term social justice.

## II. **Description and Mission**

- Our mission as Christians is to align ourselves with the word of God. This is not the mission of social justice even if they use biblical texts. Issue of World View!
- Social justice evolved from concepts of critical theory, conflict theory, critical race theory and intersectionality. Social justice is inherently incompatible with biblical justice.

### A. Description

1. Critical Race Theory
2. Adjunct Terminology

### B. Mission of Social Justice

- First, identify disadvantaged groups. White, male, heterosexual, cisgendered (*sex is related to bio birth*), able-bodied, native born, Christian are oppressors. If White is oppressor, non-White is the oppressed. If male is the oppressor, non-male is the oppressed. If heterosexual is the oppressor, non-heterosexual is the oppressed. If cisgendered is the oppressor, non-cisgendered is the oppressed
- Secondly, assess group outcomes.
- Thirdly, assign blame for disparate outcomes.
- Finally, redistribute power and resources to redress those grievances. Social justice's mission is not the mission of biblical justice. That is antithetical to the mission of biblical justice.

### III. **Demonstration and Manifestation**

#### A. Demonstration and Sphere of Influence

Celebrating diversity, child welfare, health care reform, poverty and economic injustice, affordable housing, climate justice (used to be global warming, which then became climate change), racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights, affordable healthcare, refugee crisis, racial justice, income gaps, gun violence, hunger and food security, equity.

#### B. Manifestation and Strategies for Impact

- Social justice is about redistribution, so anywhere where there's inequity, there is injustice. If the numbers are not equal, there's injustice.
- The social justice movement gets to its conclusions by force.
- This is not the way of the body of Christ. We are not about gaining political power in order to force people to do justice.
- "We are about the proclamation of the Gospel recognizing that true justice must and can only come from hearts transformed through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Our greatest political desire is the freedom to proclaim the Gospel in a marketplace of ideas." Buchanan

### IV. **Deficiencies and Menace**

- A. World View is Atheistic and Ethics are Pragmatic or Utilitarian (Portland, Antifa)
- B. Guilt is often Corporate not Individual- Corporate Confession and False Apology Syndrome. Ezk 18:17-20!
- C. Lack of Theological Context and Content.  
National Israel and Dispensationalism- Kingdom- Post Millennialism  
The perverting and polluting of the gospel

### V. **Danger and Malevolence**

- A. Socialism normally leads to totalitarianism, but it is never advertised.
- B. Critical social justice will ultimately not tolerate proclaiming the Gospel in a marketplace of ideas because it is a source and a means of oppression.
- C. True and enduring Justice will only come through our Lord Jesus Christ. "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven."
- D. The solution is not simply political but we must be involved.  
Theologically Committed Politically Informed Sociologically Engaged