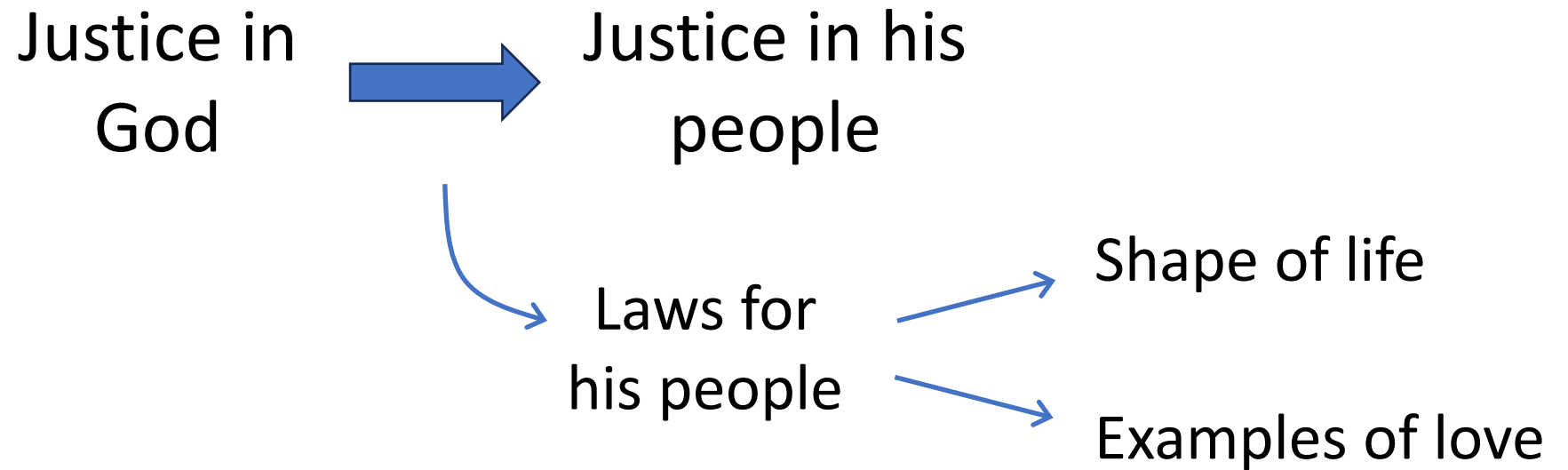


Justice in the Church



Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd. Exodus 24:2

Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Exodus 23:6

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly. Leviticus 19:15

Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

And I charged your judges at that time, “Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner residing among you. Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God.” Deuteronomy 1:16-17

Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. 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. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:17-18.

Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. Deuteronomy 24:17-18

Justice in the Church

Old Testament Laws

1. What strikes you from these laws on justice?
2. What questions does that raise?

Justice in the Church

Wider Old Testament

- Examples in history

Justice in the Church

Wider Old Testament

- Prophets

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Justice in the Church

New Testament

Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. Galatians 2:10

Justice in the Church

New Testament

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism....

...have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

...you have dishonoured the poor.

Justice in the Church

New Testament

*If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.
James 2:1-8*

Justice in the Church

New Testament

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Acts 6:1

Justice in the Church

Key issues

- Right judgement & action
- Care of vulnerable
- Dangers of favouritism
- Potential for being influenced

What areas of application can you see in church life?