



# Biblical Justice vs. Social Justice

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Nobel Prize winning economist Friedrich Hayek once said, “I have come to feel strongly that the greatest service I can still render to my fellow men, would be that I could make the speakers and writers among them thoroughly ashamed ever again, to employ the term social justice.”

Christians understand from Scripture that God demands justice in our societies (see Micah 6:8). But does the term “social justice” used by many today reflect God’s justice?

***Most people who employ the term mean well, but believers must understand that the term “social justice” as used today has a very specific meaning that doesn’t always align with biblical justice.***

So what is social justice?

Today, social justice may be primarily understood as distributive justice applied through political means. It’s justice at the level of a society or a state as regards possession of wealth, commodities, opportunities, and privileges. Therein lies the problem for believers. Social justice replaces individual accountability to the laws of God with state-mandated redistribution. Rather than treating justice as a heart issue reflected by an individual’s actions, social justice simply seeks specific outcomes for specific groups. In flaming matters, proponents of social justice use force to impose equity – pursuing political and social power to get the results they deem “just.”

The key difference then between biblical justice and social justice lies in how the two views define *injustice*. The Bible defines injustice as that which fails to rise to the level of the law of God. Social Justice defines injustice as anything that produces or allows an inequitable outcome. As a result, any and all means used to achieve equity are considered morally justified, including force. The Church takes a decidedly different approach, believing true justice that reflects Gods’ character in society can only come from hearts transformed through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## Questions for reflection

1. Why do you think so many well-meaning Christians have bought in to the concept of social justice? What is the danger to the of trying to weave social justice into our theology?
2. How can you help your congregation understand the true definition of social justice in contrast with the unbiblical ideology our culture currently champions? How you can God’s people advocate for biblical justice in our society?