

**Our Awesome  
God is Just**

# We're All Created with a Sense of Justice

- ❑ Parents: When someone hurts your child (emotionally or physically), what's your first response?
- ❑ From babies to adults: When someone steals from you, what do you tend to feel first?
- ❑ If you seek a promotion and then the manager's friend (with a terrible work ethic) gets the position, what's your first thought?
- ❑ How many movie plots are around justice or retribution?
- ❑ When you hear of terrorists slaughtering innocent children and adults, does your heart cry for justice?

**Do we desire justice as a response to our own sin?**

# Justice is a Major Part of God's Character

Does God's word regularly call us to act justly?

- ❑ **Exodus 34:6-7 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."**
- ❑ **Psalms 89:14 (ESV)** **Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne**; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- ❑ **Romans 12:19 (HCSB)** Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: **Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord.**

# Does God, Ultimately, Prefer Grace or Justice?

## Do you recognize God's heart toward everyone?

- ❑ **Ezekiel 33:11 (NLT2)** <sup>11</sup> As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?
- ❑ **2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)** <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- ❑ **Matthew 23:37 (NIV2011)** "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."

# What Drives Ultimate Justice vs. Ultimate Mercy?

Do you weep for the lost? Will you share Jesus' love?

**Luke 19:41-44 (NKJV)** <sup>41</sup> Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, <sup>44</sup> and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

*Jesus demonstrates the heart of God by weeping over the people of Israel*

*All this came upon them because they rejected God's visitation (Jesus, the Messiah's, first coming)*

*In A.D. 70 the Roman armies were the "Abomination of Desolation"*

# Ultimately, Jesus paid for justice through His death

**John 3:16-18 (ESV)**<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

*It's God's great love that brought us salvation through Jesus' sacrifice*

*Have you passed from death to life? If not, what is holding you back from following Jesus and receiving grace and eternal life?*

*God's purpose and desire is to save all through His grace*

**Ultimately, will you receive justice or grace?**