



INTRODUCTION

PART 6: The Holiness and Justice of God

Different religions have differing ideas of what God is like. But who is God? How can we know Him? And what difference does any of it make?

In the Beginning is a series focusing on what God has made known about himself in the first three chapters of the Bible in the book of Genesis. Join us in discovering how life changing this information can be in our relationship with God and with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think about a time when you were treated unjustly. How did you respond? What happened?
2. When have you seen injustice in your world? How did that make you feel? What did you think should be done about it?
3. Read Habakkuk 1:13: "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and You cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do You tolerate those who are treacherous? Why are You silent while one who is wicked swallows up one who is more righteous than himself?"
4. Have you asked this same question of God, which was asked in Habakkuk?
5. Do you find that you get frustrated or angry when someone does something wrong and they get away with it? Why or why not?
6. What is your normal reaction to wrongdoing done to others? Give an example.
7. How do you want people and God to treat you when you have wronged someone else?
8. What do you think we need to know about God's holiness and justice in order to see God's big picture? Is it difficult to focus on the big picture when there is so much wrongdoing around you? Why or why not?
9. The three-part challenge of the message was to trust God in how He is "just" in three ways. How are you doing in these three ways? What is something you can work on to help you grow in any/all of these ways?
 - Trust in Christ to be restored to God.
 - Trust in God's part in carrying out justice.
 - Trust God as you play your part in humility.

APPLICATION

Because God is holy, we can trust in how God will be just. His holiness is what drives His justice. There are times when it feels as though He may be unjust, but if we know God is holy and perfectly full of glory, then we can embrace a God who is just and gracious. We can do this even when we feel like His justice might not have been done in the way we would have wanted it to be done.

In our relationship with God, we should come to a place where we allow the role we play or the observations we have about the justice of others to be centered on what God is doing. Our part is to trust God and to act justly. It is to do right by people and injustices we see, but it is to be done with love and faithfulness toward others. It is to be done while we walk humbly with our God. If we try to do our part of justice in this world with our motives and our pride, we will miss opportunities to show grace, and we may miss seeing God do something even bigger than we could have imagined.

KEY VERSES

Genesis 1-3
Genesis 1:31
1 Samuel 2:2
2 Timothy 4:8
Habakkuk 1:13
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13, 21-24
Micah 6:8