

Racism, Social Justice, and the Woke Movement (Part 3)

Applying Justice

I. Racism

Claim A: Racism is a corporate, structural sin, not necessarily an individual act or event

Applying Justice

Principle: God defines what is sin (Gen. 2:15-17; Ps 19:9b; Rev. 20:11-13)

Principle: Racism is more properly defined as hatred and/or partiality (Jas. 2:1-13)

Principle: Unjust people (not systems) are responsible for systemic injustice (Mal. 1:6-14; Lk. 20:45-21:4)

Claim B: White people practice and perpetuate racism without realizing it.

Applying Justice

Principle: Sin being unknown is not the same as sin being unknowable (Ps. 19:12-13)

Claim C: Secular ideologies are helpful analytical tools for Christians.

Applying Justice

Principle: Secular ideologies cannot aid biblical interpretation (1 Cor. 2:1-6, 12-16; Col. 2:3-8; 1 Tim. 6:20)

Principle: Believing Scripture precedes understanding our experiences (Ps 119:98, 100, 130; Heb. 11:3)

Claim D: America's racist history provides sufficient criteria to explain racism in America currently.

Applying Justice

Principle: The past does not always provide a sufficient explanation for the present (Gen. 3; Eph. 2; Heb. 8:7-12)

II. Law Enforcement

Event A: Trayvon Martin (February 26, 2012)

Applying Justice

Principle: In some cases, the evidence necessary for earthly justice is not always attainable (Pro. 29:26)

Event B: Mike Brown (August 9, 2014)

Applying Justice

Principle: Do not render a verdict on insufficient evidence (Pro. 18:13, 17)¹

Principle: Render just judgments once the facts are in (Pro. 17:15)

Principle: Truth is not determined by majority vote (Mat. 27:1, 15-26; Acts 4:24-28)

Event C: Breonna Taylor (March 13, 2020)

Applying Justice

Principle: Those who keep company with fools risk sudden disaster (Pro. 24:21-22)

Event D: George Floyd (May 25, 2020)

Applying Justice

Principle: Guilt is not grounds for excessive punishment (Deut. 25:3)

Principle: Lawlessness is suicidal (Pro. 1:8-19)

Principle: Foolishness invites calamity (Pro. 1:29-31)

¹ Two helpful resource on this principle are [“A Compassionate, Counter-Cultural, Christian Response” by Kevin Huang](#) and [“Silence is Wisdom, not Weakness - 3 Principles for #Ferguson” by Jesse Johnson](#).

III. Lament

Claim A: The church should practice corporate lament following racial injustices.

Applying Justice

Principle: Patience is always necessary (I Thess. 5:14)

Principle: Proper grief requires knowledge (Pro. 19:2)

Principle: Sorrow and suffering do not exempt us from instruction, correction, or even rebuke
(Job 32:1-37:24; Gen. 30:1; Jacob 43:1-10; Lev. 10:1-3; II Sam 10:1-8; Lk. 24:13-17; I Thess.
4:13-5:11)