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“Pursuing Justice” (5-3-1)

Questions

1. **What is the question at the heart of justice?** At the heart of justice is the question, what is due a person?
2. **What are some things that stand out in the context of justice?** One of the things that stand out in the context of justice is a special concern for the oppressed, the poor, and those who lack the means of self-sufficiency.
3. **What’s Higginson’s view on love and justice?** Higginson suggests that love and justice mutually supplement one another. Love needs justice and justice needs love.
4. **What are the author’s views on justice and freedom?** The author’s views on justice and freedom are that justice and freedom do not always reside together so easily. Justice in some manner always limits freedom. Meanwhile, freedom alone will not necessarily result in justice.
5. **What is the best framework for Christians seeking to apply their moral commitments to a complex, fallen world?** The best framework for Christians seeking to apply their moral commitments to a complex, fallen world is one that maintains a tension between justice, freedom, and order.

Vocabulary

- **Retributive justice:** focuses on what is due a person when the person has perpetrated wrong
- **Distributive justice:** positive in nature, focusing on the kinds of rewards, rights, opportunities, services, and treatments due a person because of who that person is, what he or she has done, or even the group to which he or she belongs.
- **John Stuart Mill:** a utilitarian who believed that justice was determined by maximizing good for the greatest number of people.

Summary

In the chapter on “Pursuing Justice,” Hollinger conveys the point that justice is a multifaceted issue, so much so that it can be assessed on an individual and institutional level. There are several actors involved in the task of meeting out justice and determining how to enact it in practice. In conclusion, Hollinger states this tension will be an ongoing debate for Christians. Still, our moral compass must be to “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness ever like an ever-flowing stream.”