

5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 10

Questions

1. What is the difference between retributive justice and distributive justice?
2. While the Bible addresses justice, why is it important to develop a theology of justice?
3. Why must justice and love walk together?
4. Where is true Christian freedom found?
5. Why does it matter that Christians pursue justice amidst ethical issues?

Answers

1. Retributive justice focuses on what a person is due based on their wrongdoings, and distributive justice focuses on what a person is due just because of who that person is or what they have done.
2. The Bible does not always make clear what justice actually entails, and a theology of justice would offer a biblically-based perspective on what is due a person.
3. Justice directs love by exposing societal dimensions of ethical issue, and Christians can learn empathy, understanding and mercy as they display love in their pursuit of justice.
4. True freedom is found in relationship with God and by truly being Christ's disciples by understanding and spreading His truth.
5. Justice is needed for making ethical judgments in a complex world. The Bible is clear that justice and righteousness go hand-in-hand.

Terms

1. meritorious justice – justice that is focused on what is owed a person by their actions or efforts
2. egalitarian justice – justice that is achieved by reaching some form of equality
3. need justice – justice that is primarily focused on alleviating a concrete need in a given context

Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on the necessity for Christians to pursue justice while they make ethical decisions in a complex world. While much of the debate on justice centers around its definition, the Bible is clear that Christians are to commit to upholding justice and righteousness. While the issue of determining what justice is and is not will continue, developing a theology of justice will be imperative to continued effective Christian service.