

TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

Spring 2023

Choosing the Good, Chapter 10

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Questions

1. What is the difference between how ancient philosophers defined justice, versus how it's defined today?
2. What does Hollinger say about God's work of righteousness?
3. Outline the content of justice.
4. What's unique about the approach towards love and justice regarding race?
5. How does William Werpehowski define the applicability of justice?

Answers

1. Justice was once described as a virtue, while today it is viewed as a principle or social vision to guide humanity.
2. A righteous person must be a just person.
3. Justice is associated with fairness and integrity, right living in all areas of life, and with a special concern for vulnerable populations.
4. Justice requires an overhaul of policies and procedures that ensure oppressed races have equal access to jobs, education, and power, while engaging personally among racial/ethnic groups to pursue reconciliation and address prejudice.
5. He says, "Specification of justice requires specification of criteria appropriate to the nature of the relationship in question (234)."

Terms

- **Retributive justice** focuses on what a person deserves when they have transgressed.
- **Distributive justice** focuses on the rewards/benefits a person deserves based on status, a person's deeds, or the group to whom they belong.
- **Mishpat** - Justice, judgment.

Summary

Individuals, believers, and the state are responsible for justice. Individual believers and the Church are responsible to display and execute righteousness and justice within their spheres of influence. God is concerned with justice, which means His people must also be called with justice. Ultimately love ought to lead to God ordained works.