



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Good and Beautiful and Kind: The Work of Justice

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Proverbs 21:2-3

² A person may think their own ways are right,
but the Lord weighs the heart.

³ To do what is right and just
is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Justice is in our genes. We have been created and hard-wired for it. To be a follower of Jesus means we are to pay attention to this gene.

If you are not right with your neighbor, then you are not right with God. Worship without justice is worthless.

**We work for justice not because it justifies us.
We've been justified; therefore, we work for justice.**

What does it mean to live a life of justice? Below are five invitations:

- Justice doesn't have to be big.
- Practicing justice requires us to name our burden.
- The practice of justice calls us to "raise our voice."
- Justice calls us to guard against moral numbness.
- Justice requires us to prioritize proximity to the poor.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, closes out our series entitled *Good and Beautiful and Kind*. Today Pastor Rich explores the call to justice in a fractured world.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. How have you understood the role of justice within Christian faith? To what degree has justice been a part of your own faith?
3. Pastor Rich mentioned the importance of "naming our burdens" when it comes to identifying what God might want us to address in our mission for justice. Can you name any burdens that you've been carrying? What do you sense might be a good next step?
4. The key truth in today's sermon is: Worship without justice is worthless. How does this biblical insight confront your own journey of discipleship?
5. Because of technology and social media, we are more aware of the fractures and points of injustice in our world. How has this "injustice-fatigue" impacted your own commitment to justice work?