



Vision & Values Sermon Series

Values: Scripture, Prayer, Generosity, Diversity, Community, Creativity, Outreach, **Justice**, Love.

We Value Justice: **We are committed to extending Christ's reign by paying attention to issues of injustice, advocating for the poor and powerless and working toward healing and reconciliation in our community and the world.**

Texts: Philemon, 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:1

This morning we talked about our role as God's justice for humanity. The justice of God is one that transcends the dictionary definition of being just, impartial and fair to one that longs for reconciliation.

The sermon focused on the book of Philemon and the powerful expectations that Paul places on Philemon in welcoming back the runaway slave Onesimus. Paul doesn't just expect Philemon to be just, impartial and fair, but for the two to be reconciled as brothers. This is true biblical justice. Paul makes a profound request, but a request that the Gospel demands!

We are called as God's agents of reconciliation to be found in situations of injustice, being Christ in those situations, as part of God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself.

Questions for discussion:

1. What are your thoughts and feeling regarding the value of justice?
2. Who do you resonate with in the book of Philemon? Paul, Philemon, Onesimus? Why might this be the case?
3. How are you presently engaging in justice in your life?

4. Are there specific issues or situations you are passionate about that God might be calling you to engage with to enact God's justice?

5. How might Emmanuel Baptist Church foster this value of justice more fully in Saskatoon, Canada and around the world?