**SERMON 7-26-2020 Do Justice - Part 1** Trav Neumann

**Gen 1:26-27, Micah 6:8, Galatians 6:9-10**

**Gen 1:26-27**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

**27**So **God created man in his own image**,
    **in the image of God he created him**;
    male and female he created them.

**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good;
    and what does the Lord **require of you**
but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**,
    and to **walk humbly** with your God?

**GAL 6:9-10**And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10**So then, **as we have opportunity**, let us do good to **everyone**, and **especially** to those who are of the **household of faith**.

Proverbs 20:5, Prov 18:15

How familiar are you with the language, history and context of these issues?

**(Part 1)** This week we’ll look at the implication of being made in the image of God, and the path from humility to doing justice in Micah.

**(Part 2)** Next week, since we hear about it daily, we’ll provide a biblical perspective regarding the Black Lives Matter Movement and see **why** and **how** the gospel offers an alternative response to these circumstances, calling us to be salt and light.

**(Part 3)** Then we’ll talk about how we realistically engage with people, as we have opportunity (Gal 6:9-10), who have been unjustly treated so as to reflect the compassion and mercy of Christ.

**(Part 4)** Then Evan will close the series by tying these things together in the story of the Good Samaritan.

**MICAH 6:8**

What does God require of us?
Walk in **humility** before God 🡪 love **kindness** (*hesed* mercy)🡪 do **justice** ( do what reflects what is just in God’s sight).

Book recommendation: **WEEP WITH ME: How Lament Opens a Door for Racial Reconciliation,** Mark Vroegop, Crossway publishers

Spectrum:

[‘I will build my church’] 🡪 🡪 🡪 [world in decay and darkness]

Genesis 1:26-27 We believe all people are created in the image of God.

Wayne Grudem –

***“****The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.*

*When God says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26), the meaning is that God plans to make a creature similar to himself…These terms had quite clear meanings to the original readers… The Hebrew words for "image" and "likeness" simply informed the original readers that man was like God, and would in many ways represent God. It would have meant to the original readers,*

*"Let us make man to be* ***like us*** *and to* ***represent*** *us.”*

We also believe as Christians in progressive sanctification.

*The text is saying exercising royal dominion over the earth as God’s representative is the basic purpose for which God created man. Man is appointed king over creation, responsible to God the ultimate king, and as such expected to manage, develop, and care for creation….What distinguishes humanity from animals is the imago Dei and a passionate appetite for God. Our distinctive distinguishes us from the rest of creation, but more important, it is the imago Dei that sets us apart for God. We are to be distinguished by our Godlike compassion in connection with our ruling.* ***Like God, we are to be merciful kings****.*

*B. Waltke, Genesis- A Commentary, p66, 71*

*The God who made the world and everything in it*

*being Lord of heaven and earth*

*gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

*And he made from one man every nation of mankind*

*to live on all the face of the earth,*

*having determined allotted periods and*

*the boundaries of their dwelling place*. Act 17:24-26

**Discussion questions:**

1. Share what your experience has been growing up with regard to language, context and knowledge of black history.
2. Why is humility the starting point of learning to be merciful and acting with justice? (Micah 6:8)
3. To ‘do justice’ starts with a heart of humility. Talk about ways you may view other people different from you in unhelpful ways (thoughts, attitudes, language or behaviors).
4. How does understanding that very person is made in the image of God helpful?
5. How do you think empathy (mercy and compassion) may be a bridge to starting helpful and healing conversations? How may that be obedience to Galatians 6:9-10 of ‘doing good’ to those inside and outside the church?