

May 17, 2026



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Christian Manner of Justice **Deut 24:14-21; Eph 6:5-9; 1 Tim 6:17-19**

Lesson Background and Introduction

The first Scripture text from today's lesson comes from Moses' second speech in Deuteronomy to the people of Israel. The speech begins by setting forth a general set of rules for God's covenant people (Deuteronomy 4:44-11:32). The second part of the speech focuses on specific rules within God's order for a new society (12:1-26:19). Israel's identity as God's covenant people was supposed to shape their treatment of poor and marginalized people. Moses had already reminded the Israelites that poor people would always be part of the population (Deuteronomy 15:11). As a result, he commanded an openhanded policy toward these people, requiring generous giving without resentment (15:10). The second Scripture text comes from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. In Ephesians 5:21-6:9, Paul includes a "household code," a common form of social teaching in that day. These codes consisted of a list of obligations and duties in household relationships (compare Colossians 3:8-14; 1 Peter 2:18-3:7). He discusses each of the common roles in a household of his time, including family members and servants. Far from simply affirming the culturally accepted social order, Paul infuses every household role with the revolutionary story of Jesus. The final Scripture text comes from the first letter that Paul wrote to Timothy. Timothy was likely dealing with false teachers who arose in the church in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3-4). These false teachers glorified wealth (6:5-10). Paul outlines steps the community members can take to ensure they are not overcome by "love of money" (6:10).

These three texts teach that God's people must display generosity, mutual respect, and rightly ordered hope. Deuteronomy 24 identifies the generosity and justice God commanded of the ancient Israelites. We ought to show generosity and act justly in our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces. When we do so, we reflect God's character to everyone around us, including the most vulnerable. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us of the "level playing field" on which we stand before Christ. His authority governs all earthly relationships. Our faith demands that we treat others with respect, recognizing that we are all equal in Christ. Finally, Paul's letter to Timothy encourages us to order our hopes rightly. The truth that our security comes from God, not our material possessions, remains especially relevant in the twenty-first century. As we place our hope in God, we should be openhanded and generous with our resources. Lives that do not prioritize the world's measures of money, status, and power are living testimonies to God's life-transforming grace. Because our lives have been transformed by God, we seek to practice justice, respect all people, and share generously

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Although the Bible writers understood that "equity" (fairness and justice) is a key component of God's love, they also knew that it will only be fully realized in the future

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father, help us to work for Your justice now where we live, even as we await the day when You will make everything right. We long for that day

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth
(Ps 67:4 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 05, 2017)

Series: Social Teachings of the Church

UNIT 3: Fulfilling Our Obligations To God and Society

NEXT WEEK

Christian Rhythms of Life (Mark 2:18-28)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Generosity in Work (Deut 24:14-21)

Fair wages (14-15)

Fair wages by not defrauding the workers (Lev 19:13)

Fair wages by not withholding pay when it is available (Prov 3:27-28)

Fair wages by following the agreed upon amount (Matt 20:8-15)

Fair wages because God is aware of failure to pay (James 5:4)

Individual accountability (16)

Accountable at work (Eph 6:5)

Accountable to not love money because it is meaningless (Eccl 5:10)

Accountable to leaders (Heb 13:17)

Accountable for how we treat others (Matt 18:32-34)

Past justice (17-18)

Past unjust judgment (Ps 82:2)

Past violent injustice (Ps 58:2-3)

Past being unconcerned about justice (Prov 29:7)

Past oppressed justice (Eccl 5:8)

Share with the poor (19-21)

Sharing with the widows and orphans (James 1:27)

Sharing by being generous (Prov 22:9)

Sharing by feeding the hungry (Prov 25:21)

Sharing by practicing hospitality (Rom 12:13)

Sharing by entertaining stranger (Heb 13:2)

Mutual Respect in Work (Eph 6:5-9)

Obedience as to the Lord (5-7)

Obedience to authorities because God established them (Rom 13:1)

Obedience to authorities because it is a command of God (Titus 3:1)

Obedience to authorities out of reverence for Jesus (Eph 5:21)

Obedience to authorities because they are there to administer justice (1 Peter 2:13-14)

Reward for obedience (8)

Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience that proves the reality of ourselves (2 Cor 9:13)

Obedience that leads to submission (Heb 5:7-9)

Obedience that leads to being seen as righteous (Rom 2:13)

Obedience that leads to the knowledge of God (1 John 2:3)

No partiality (9)

No partiality because God sees it (1 Tim 5:21)

No partiality because it causes humiliation (Mal 2:9)

No partiality because of being a Christian (James 2:1)

No partiality because it does not reflect godly wisdom (James 3:17)

Future Rewards of Work (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Trust the living God (17)

Trust God and don't worry (Matt 6:25-27)

Trust God by seeking His kingdom first (Luke 12:29-31)

Trust God because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)

Trust God to provide overflowing hope (Rom 15:13)

Trust God by being convinced of His ability (2 Tim 1:12)

Be willing to share (18-19)

Share by giving to those in need (Rom 12:13)

Share with instructor the good things in God's word (Gal 6:6)

Share by working to be able to give to others (Eph 4:28)

Share because God is pleased with His people who share (Heb 13:16)

Share by supporting the weak (Acts 20:35)

Share to help others in the Church (Acts 2:44-46)