

God's Laws of Social Justice

How Important Are They?

1. The Principle:

Commandment #1: "You shall love the Lord your God..." [Mat 22:37-38](#)

[Exo 20:1-11](#) [Deu 6:5](#); [Lev 19:18](#); [Mat 22:37-40](#); [Mar 12:30-31](#); [Luk 10:27](#);
[Joh 15:9-12](#)

- and -

Commandment #2: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" [Mat 19:17-19](#) -

[Mat 22:39](#); [Mar 12:31](#); [Luk 10:27](#) (connects the two); [Exo 20:12-17](#); cf
[Rom 13:8-9](#); [1Jo 4:19-21](#)

These two MUST be taken together. For us, one is meaningless without the recognition of the other.

Israel were commanded to have a "Ribband of Blue" sewn on the fringe (tzitzith) of their garments as a reminder; but reminder of what? [Num 15:37-41](#) Blue = symbol of healing; also heavenliness, therefore, God manifestation. Intended to remind the people about what heals from sin and iniquity, and results in the people manifesting God & Godliness (God-like-ness).

Christ denounced these very items on the clothing of the Pharisees because they ostentatiously enlarged them to appear more righteous than others ([Mat 23:5](#)). Rather than manifesting Yahweh, they were took the glory to themselves.

In Christ's discourses with the religious leaders of his day, the discussion centered upon "defilement"...

The Pharisees ideology was that they were clean by nature and defilement came from things outside of them and contact with the "unclean"; and so their religion became a religion of avoidance - the more you can avoid, the less defiled you are, and, by extension, the more righteous.

That's what makes [Luk 11:41](#) cp with [Mar 7:14-23](#) (RSV) so interesting and informative. Defilement does not come from what is external to us; it comes from the sinfulness WITHIN us, therefore it is what goes out that is important to what defiles OR cleanses: Injustice proceeding out from the heart is what defiles; benevolence proceeding out from the heart is what cleanses... [1Jo 4:19-21](#) cf [Pro 14:21](#) & [Pro 14:31](#)

"if you love me, keep my Commandments..." ([Joh 14:15](#)) What are Christ's commandments? [Mat 5:42](#); [Luk 6:30](#); [Mat 19:21](#); [Mat 25:35-36](#); [Luk 3:11](#); [Luk 6:30-35](#); [Luk 11:41](#); [Luk 12:33](#); [Luk 14:12-14](#); [Luk 18:22](#); [Luk 19:8](#); [Act 20:35](#);

2. The Instruction:

[Exo 20:13-17](#) These are the Divine standards set out to regulate human relations - parents, spouse, family, fellow human beings; don't violate your obligations and vows whether moral or spiritual, don't take what does not belong to you, be truthful

about what you see and observe, and don't be envious of others or what others possess. That pretty much covers it.

[Lev 19:2-4](#) Tells the congregation that humans are manifestations of the Divine ([Gen 1:26-28](#)); as is Yahweh, so must His creation be - as Divine ambassadors; and as children are manifestations of their Mothers and Fathers, so must the children respect the parents as the anti-type of the relationship of the human creation to the Divine creator. Don't adulterate that relationship by replacing Yahweh with that which is fictitious.

[Lev 19:9-18](#) God asks his people to have respect, regard, empathy and generosity toward the poor, destitute and foreigners; don't cheat others, steal, lie, withhold wages, make promises without any intention of keeping them; don't ridicule others, put stumbling blocks in front of the blind, gossip; never hesitate to give fair and accurate testimony; don't hold grudges; give corrective advice when possible; don't be angry and exact revenge.

[Lev 19:32-37](#) Show respect to the elderly and don't mistreat foreigners; treat them as you would treat citizens, and love them as you would love yourselves, because you were once foreigners in Egypt; use honest measures.

[Deu 15:7-11](#) Be generous with your money toward any of the poor in the land; be kind and lend what they need. Whatever you put out to help the needy will come back to you.

[Deu 24:17](#) Treat orphans, widows and foreigners fairly. If you require them to give something as security, don't take anything that is necessary for life and survival.

[Psa 82:2-4](#) Judges of Israel, don't judge unjustly and have respect of persons; be good to the poor, the orphans and the homeless.

[Pro 14:31](#) God is insulted by the mistreatment of the poor but respected by acts of kindness to them.

[Pro 21:3](#) God is more pleased with acts of fairness and justice than with offerings.

[Pro 31:8-9](#) Defend the helpless and hopeless; treat the poor and homeless with fairness and justice.

[Isa 1:17](#) Be good to widows, orphans and those in need. Make sure justice is done.

[Isa 56:1](#) Be honest and fair.

[Isa 58:6-14](#) Loose the prisoners, free the abused, share your food with the hungry, your homes with the homeless, give clothes to the needy, don't be cruel or level false accusations, be good to your relatives.

[Isa 61:1-11](#) God's purpose is to bring good news to the oppressed, healing to the brokenhearted, freedom to prisoners & captives, joy and blessedness to the insulted and mistreated, to put away injustice and robbery and replace them with praise; to replace sorrow with flowers, tears with olive oil, broken hearts with joy.

[Isa 66:1-2](#) Be humble; tremble when God speaks

[Jer 22:1-3](#) Don't cheat, steal, take advantage of widows, orphans & foreigners, don't do violence to the innocent; instead do right, do justice and rescue anyone who has suffered from injustice.

[Eze 3:16-21](#) & [Eze 33:2-20](#) Ezekiel - and by extension, everyone - has an obligation to speak out against wickedness & social injustice whenever & wherever he/she sees

it; refusal of that obligation involves the observer in the very evil he/she is witness to. (See [Eze 18:5-18](#) for the restatement of the Divine definitions of what constituted good & evil)

[Amo 5:10-15](#) Don't abuse the poor, don't cheat honest people or take bribes; choose good instead of evil and see that justice is done.

[Mic 6:8](#) What does God want? Does He want burnt offerings, yearling calves for sacrifice, 1000s of rams, 10,000 rivers of oil, our firstborn sons, our bodies? No; what He wants is justice, mercy and humbleness.

[Zec 7:9-10](#) Do justice and be kind and merciful each other.

"God's purpose is to bring good news to the oppressed, healing to the brokenhearted, freedom to prisoners & captives, joy and blessedness to the insulted and mistreated, to put away injustice and robbery and replace them with praise; to replace sorrow with flowers, tears with olive oil, broken hearts with joy." [Isa 61:1-11](#)

In the scheme of "God Manifestation", as His ambassadors, are we aligned with that? How do we show it?

3. The Indictment

[1Ki 12:13-14](#) Israel's king (Rehoboam) made a choice to increase, rather than ease, the burden on his subjects

[Isa 1:21-25](#) The leaders of Jerusalem chose crooks for their friends rather than God; Jerusalem became a city of murderers

[Isa 3:14](#) The leaders of the people have become rich by robbing the poor.

[Isa 5:7-8](#) People of Jerusalem are in for trouble because instead of honesty and justice, God has found only dishonesty and cries for mercy from the poor.

[Isa 10:1-2](#) rulers made cruel & unfair rules; denied justice to the poor, trampled on the rights of the needy, deprived widows and orphans of help and stole from them

[Isa 58:1-5](#) The people's worship is abominable because they only have regard for themselves, despise their brothers and sisters, and humiliate their servants

[Jer 5:1-5](#) Abraham pleaded with God for Sodom; Here God pleads for Jerusalem and his people - "Please try to find ONE honest person...and I will pardon Jerusalem"

[Jer 5:26-28](#) (CEV) Responsibility of leaders (the "powerful") to see that JUSTICE is done, and when it's not, then HELP the victims

[Jer 7:6-12](#) you oppress the foreigner, orphans, widows, destroy innocent people, worship other gods; you trust in lies, steal, murder, come into the Temple to worship me after your sessions with Baal; you use the Temple for a hideout. But I see you. Remember "Shiloh" - Cp [Jer 26:1-6](#); [Jer 22:11-18](#)

[Jer 22:1-3](#) You leaders of the people cheat, rob, mistreat widows, orphans, foreigners who have come across your borders. You need to rescue all who have suffered violence.

[Eze 18:5-18](#) - Divine definitions of what constitutes good & evil

[Eze 22:29-31](#) (reason for exile; THEREFORE I poured out my wrath upon them... cp [Pro 14:31](#))

[Hos 4:1-2](#) Israel you are unfaithful, disloyal, uncaring, dishonest, murderous & violent

[Hos 4:9](#) THAT'S why Israel will be punished

[Hos 5:10](#) The leaders of Judah are crooks, move boundary markers; therefore I will wipe them out

[Hos 6:6-9](#) covenant breakers, robbers, ambushers, murderers, unfaithful

[Hos 7:1](#) You are all deceitful and robbers roaming the streets

[Hos 10:2-4](#) You are deceitful and disloyal, break treaties and promises

[Hos 10:12-15](#) planted evil, harvested injustice, trusted in your own strength, therefore war & destruction will come upon you

[Hos 12:7-8](#) Israel enjoys cheating and taking advantage of others; they say "Israel, you enjoy cheating and taking advantage of others."

[Amo 4:1](#) You women of Samaria mistreat and abuse the poor and needy

[Amo 5:11-12](#) Israel hates judges and honest witnesses; they abuse the poor and demand heavy taxes from them; they cheat honest people, take bribes and rob the poor of justice.

[Amo 8:4-10](#) Israel crushes those in need and wipes out the poor; they can't wait for the Sabbath to end so that they can engage in the activity of commercial cheating, overpricing and inaccurate measures, taking the poor and needy for slaves.

[Mic 2:1-2](#) The people lie in bed scheming to devise evil plans, so tht in the morning they can grab the fields and houses of the poor; cheat families out of homes & land.

[Mic 2:8-10](#) You have stolen the clothes of soldiers who have returned from defending you; you only want to listen to the prophet who tells you to drink until you're drunk.

[Mic 3:1-3](#) You know what is right, but you prefer to do evil; you choose to skin my people alive.

[Mic 3:8-11](#) Israel, you hate justice, twist the truth; you engage in cruelty and murder as a way of life, accept bribes to make dishonest decisions.

[Mic 6:9-12](#) you use dishonest scales, store up stolen treasures, use violence and tell lies.

[Mic 7:2-5](#) There is no trust or respect for family; everyone is disloyal to God, brutal, deceptive, cooperating in crime, the judges take bribes to cheat in court decisions.

[Hab 1:2-4](#) criminals crowd out honest people and twist the rules, and the order of the day is violence, terrible injustice, crime, cruelty, lawlessness and conditions where justice is always the loser;

[Zep 3:1-4](#) Jerusalem, a disgusting, corrupt, lawless city; rebellious. The prophets are proud and untrustworthy; the judges are wolves; they disgrace the place of worship and abuse the law.

[Zec 7:11-14](#) Reason for exile; cp [Pro 14:31](#); They turned their backs on my message and the messengers, refused to listen; so as you paid no attention to me, I paid no attention to your supplications to me; I came upon you as a whirlwind and scattered you and left the country empty and in ruins.