

The Gospel Changes Everything
Week Two
“Gospel Wisdom for such a time as this
Message Notes – Pastor Steve Treichler
September 27, 2020
For His Glory and our joy!

OUTLINE:

Introduction – *A call for wisdom*

Recap of last week’s message:

Learning to do hard thinking about hard topics. Don’t be “simple”

Proverbs 1:22

The Creation Mandate

Genesis 1:28

Gospel Proclamation → Spirit-led Gospel Living → Commitment to Creation Mandate →
Loving Neighbor → Human Flourishing

What if the Creation Mandate were the bottom line?

This week’s message:

“Gospel Wisdom for such a time as this”

Proverbs 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:30

A Call for Wisdom

Proverbs 1

Proverbs 1:7 – True North!

Proverbs 1:11-14 – Wisdom and Justice

Proverbs 1:22-23 – The Art of Nuance

Christ is our Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

1 Corinthians 1:18 – The message of the cross is foolishness?

1 Corinthians 1:24 – Christ the power of God. Christ the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:28 – God didn’t chose us because we were smart!

1 Corinthians 1:30 – Christ is wisdom = righteousness, holiness and redemption

1 Corinthians 1:31 – Therefore, boast in the Lord!

1 Corinthians 2:2-5 – Christ crucified is the power of the gospel

Using Wisdom to know what to think about Social Justice Issues

Listening first: PBS's "Reconstruction: America after the Civil War", Henry Louis Gates, Jr (host)

Team Jesus! Wisdom comes from and through Christ. Listen to the 3 resources we have as believers: Word of God, Spirit of God, People of God.

Tim Keller's approach to understanding social justice theories:

- Libertarian
- Liberal
- Utilitarian
- Postmodern

Keller's Five Elements to Biblical Justice for our world:

A Brief Outline of Biblical Justice

- 1. Individuality AND Community:** *Others have a claim on my wealth, so I must give voluntarily.*
- 2. Equity:** *Everyone must be treated equally and with dignity.*
- 3. Corporate responsibility:** *I am sometimes responsible for and involved in other people's sins.*
- 4. Individual responsibility:** *I am finally responsible for all my sins, but not for all my outcomes.*
- 5. Advocacy:** *We must have special concern for the poor and the marginalized.*

Trike's 5 Ways to advocate our City for Change:

1. Economics
2. Education
3. Families
4. Just laws
5. Reform Policing in our city

Gospel Application – Are you seeking Wisdom?

QUOTES:

A wise leader is an embodiment of virtues rather than a master of specialized knowledge. The traditional seven cardinal virtues are a combination of the classical virtues — courage, prudence, justice and temperance — and the theological virtues of faith, hope and love. Each is needed in this time of threat. Wisdom itself is one of the virtues — prudence — but each of the virtues requires the support of the other virtues. Courage without temperance, for instance, is simply foolhardiness. In a time of pandemic, a decisionmaker must exercise all the cardinal virtues in concert, not one or two. Therefore a decisionmaker in time of crisis — a president, governor, business manager, individual — cannot afford to turn decisions over to experts or to listen to only one set of experts. Epidemiologists, for instance, are professionally required to answer the question of how to stop the virus in absolutist terms — as if the only issue to be considered is maximally

minimized deaths, with worst-case scenarios taking priority... I am not arguing for any particular strategy of response to COVID-19. Nor am I attacking experts, who we need more than ever. I am arguing for thinking holistically — considering much competing information and multiple competing goods. The experts will speak, our leaders will make rules and guidelines, but ultimately each of us will decide. May all of us seek wisdom.

By Daniel Taylor, *Wisdom more than expertise is needed*, StarTribune, May 11, 2020.

As in Romans, Paul begins his letter by demolishing false self-reliance. Humans cannot boast before God of their wisdom any more than of their works (Rom. 3:19). Nigel Watson [states], “In the same way as the cross is the condemnation of the righteousness of man, so it is the condemnation of the wisdom of the world. As it is through the renunciation of righteousness that man attains righteousness, so it is through the surrender of his own wisdom that he receives wisdom. Whoever wishes to be wise in this world must become a fool and thus find wisdom.”

The metaphors have been assimilated from the OT but have undergone transformation when refracted through the lens of Paul’s Christian faith. He does not discuss what they mean, because he must assume that the Corinthians are already familiar with the concepts. “Righteousness” refers to the state of having been acquitted and sharing Christ’s righteous character. When they are arraigned in God’s court, God will not judge them on the basis of what they are but as those who are guiltless in Christ Jesus. “Sanctification” refers to the state of holiness, which they have only in Christ Jesus and which allows them into the presence of God. “Redemption” refers to the state of being delivered from sin and its penalty.

~ David E. Garland, [1 Corinthians](#), Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), 80.

Scripture Passages:

Proverbs 1:1-27

¹The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

²or gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—⁵let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—⁶for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. ⁹They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

¹⁰My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. ¹¹If they say, “Come along with us; let’s lie in wait for innocent blood, let’s ambush some harmless soul; ¹²let’s swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴cast lots with us; we will all share the loot”—¹⁵my son, do not go along with them, do

not set foot on their paths; ¹⁶for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. ¹⁷How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! ¹⁸These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves! ¹⁹Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.

²⁰Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; ²¹on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech:

²²“How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? ²³Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. ²⁴But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, ²⁵since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, ²⁶I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—²⁷when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2:1-5

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” ¹

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.



The Gospel Changes Everything



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Wisdom itself is one of the virtues — prudence — but each of the virtues requires the support of the other virtues. Courage without temperance, for instance, is simply foolhardiness. In a time of pandemic, a decisionmaker must exercise all the cardinal virtues in concert, not one or two.

“Therefore a decisionmaker in time of crisis — a president, governor, business manager, individual — cannot afford to turn decisions over to experts or to listen to only one set of experts. Epidemiologists, for instance, are professionally required to answer the question of how to stop the virus in absolutist terms — as if the only issue to be considered is maximally minimized deaths, with worst-case scenarios taking priority...

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The Creation Mandate

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The Creation Mandate

Genesis 1:28

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”



The Story

Creation
Fall
Redemption
Restoration

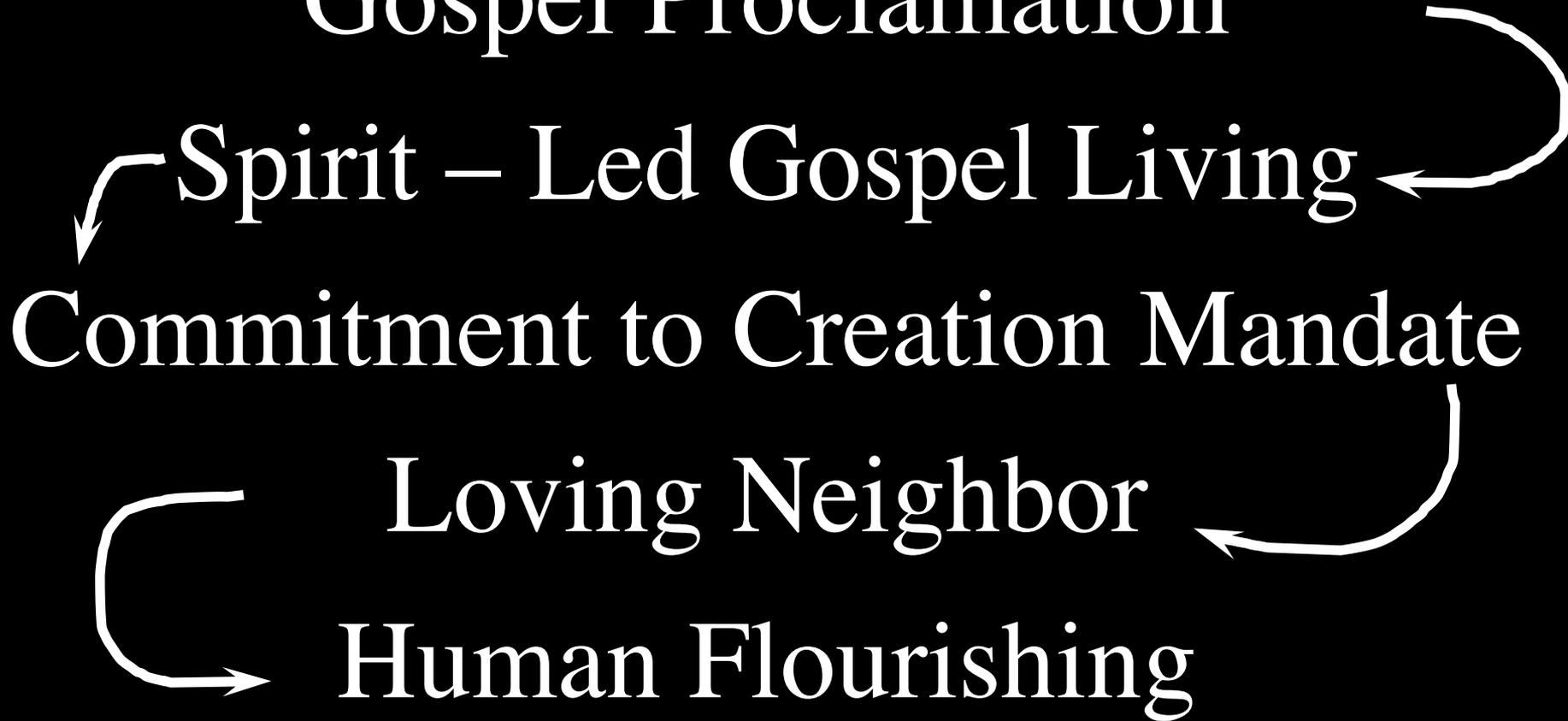
Gospel Proclamation

Spirit – Led Gospel Living

Commitment to Creation Mandate

Loving Neighbor

Human Flourishing



Gospel Application

What if the “Creation Mandate” were the bottom line of your life?



The Gospel Changes Everything



***Gospel Wisdom for
such a time as this***

Fall
2020
Series

Everything starts with God

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N

“I may not have all the answers,
but I know that fearing God
is my True North!”



Wisdom and Justice

Proverbs 1:1-27

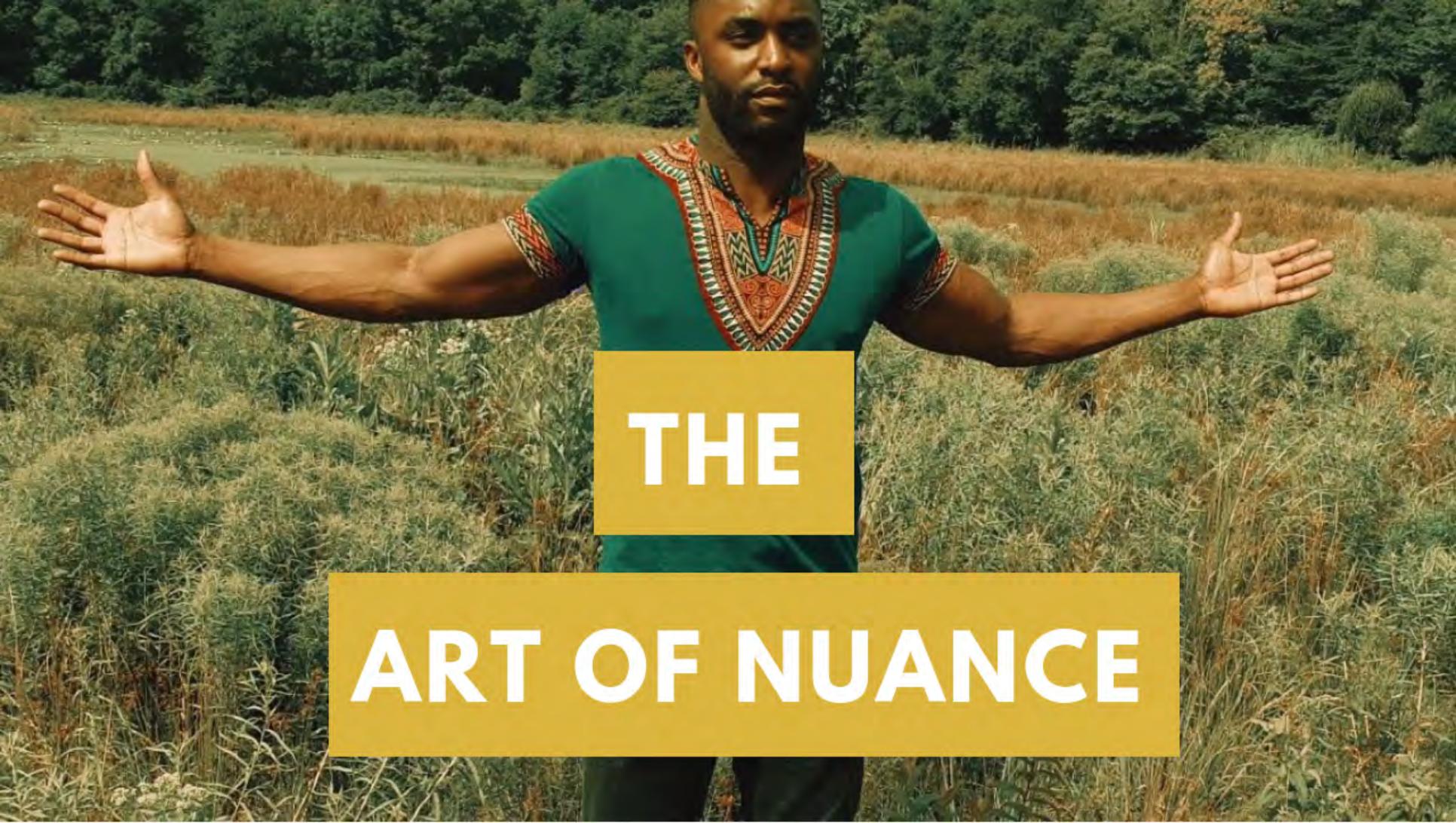
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Repent from our simple ways

Proverbs 1:1-27

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THE

ART OF NUANCE

The message of the cross is “foolishness”?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2:1-5

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Christ the power of God. Christ the wisdom of God.

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Wisdom = righteousness, holiness and redemption

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Christ crucified is the power of the gospel

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**Using Wisdom to know
what to think about
Social Justice Issues**

RECONSTRUCTION

AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

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Reconstruction Hour 1

← The aftermath of the Civil War was bewildering, exhilarating...and terrifying. →

[Watch The Full Episode](#)

Special Edition : Gospel-Changed
Minds

A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory

By Timothy Keller

The Spectrum of Justice Theories

INDIVIDUALISM

(Locke, Hume)

You are wholly the product
of your individual choices

COLLECTIVISM

(Marx)

You are wholly the product
of social forces and structures



Timothy Keller , **A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory**

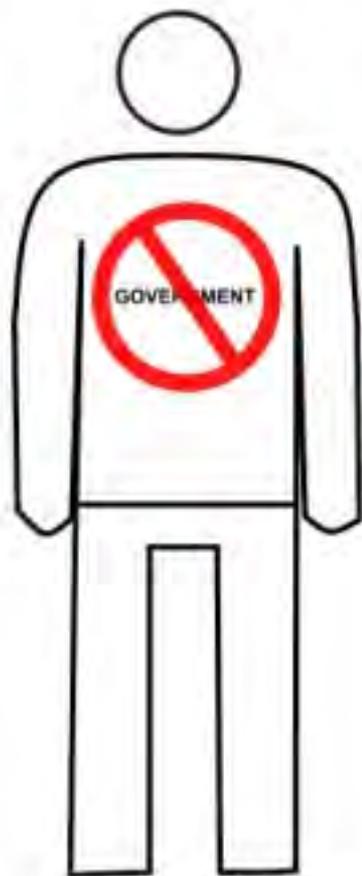
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The Spectrum of Justice Theories

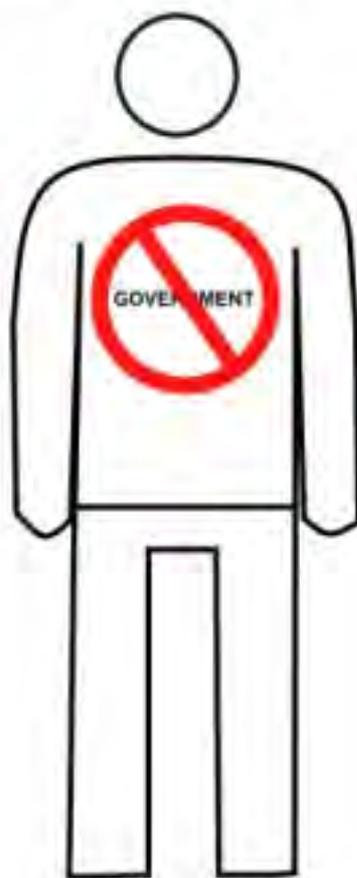
Critique of Libertarianism

The Bible balances individual freedom
with community obligation.

LIBERTARIAN



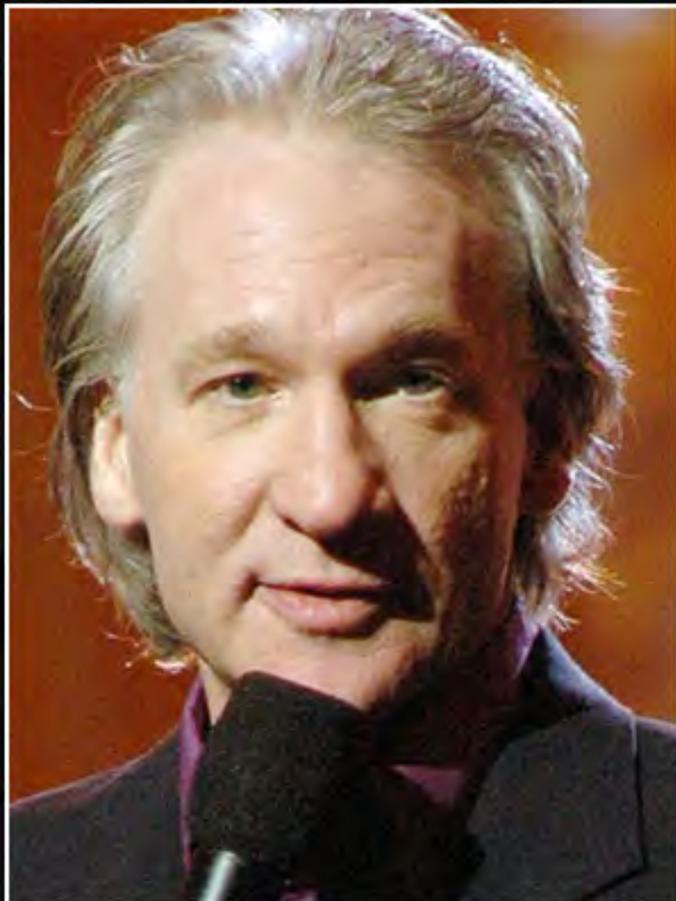
ANARCHIST



The Spectrum of Justice Theories

Critique of Liberalism

Even though much of liberalism finds its roots in the morality of Scripture, it now finds its idea of fairness based on common sense, which is not so common to everyone.



Everything that used to be a sin is
now a disease.

— *Bill Maher* —



Utilitarianism

Definition: the ethical doctrine that the moral worth of an action is solely determined by its contribution to overall utility, defined as happiness or pleasure (versus suffering or pain),

The Spectrum of Justice Theories

Critique of Utilitarianism

If “what makes me happy” is the ultimate guide, then what if your pursuit of happiness violates mine? For example, abusive situations or Jim Crow laws.

The Spectrum of Justice Theories

Critique of Postmodernism

It encourages domination, self-righteousness and eliminates forgiveness, reconciliation and peace between groups.

A Brief Outline of Biblical Justice



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1. **Individuality AND Community:** *Others have a claim on my wealth, so I must give voluntarily.*



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Trike's 5 Advocacies:

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Economics

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Education

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Education

Family Strengthening

Trike's 5 Advocacies:

Economics

Education

Family Strengthening

Legal Reform

Trike's 5 Advocacies:

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Legal Reform

Police Reform

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Are you seeking Wisdom?