

TOUGH LOVE FOR THE HALF-HEARTED

Inconvenient Justice
Malachi 2:17-3:5

Redefining 'Good' (Malachi 2:17; 3:2-5)

"All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD..."

Claim #1: We get to define what is _____ and _____.

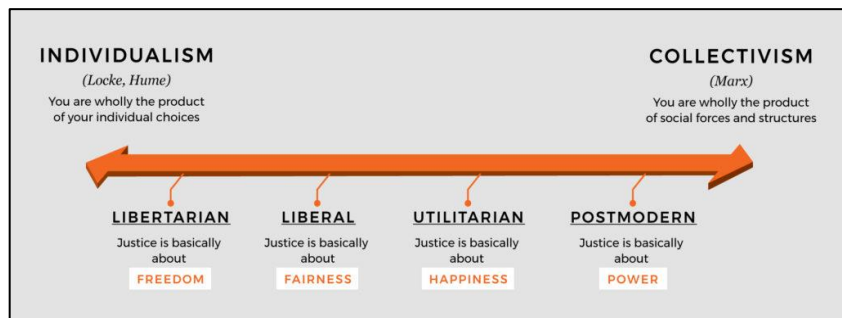
God's response: He will refine us and _____ what is _____ in us.

The God of Justice (Malachi 2:17; 3:1, 5-7)

"Where is the God of justice?"

Claim #2: God's justice is _____.

Which *justice* are we talking about?



God's response: The God of justice is _____.

Biblical justice:

1. aligns with what God defines as _____.
2. calls us to join God in *his* work of _____ the _____ around us.

"I will come... against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty."

Malachi 3:5

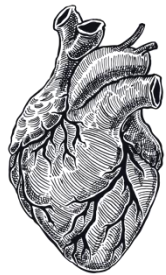
Digging Deeper

Jeremiah 22:3
Isaiah 1:15-18; 58:6-10
Matthew 23:23
Luke 18:7-8
James 2:1-13; 5:1-6

*"He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To **act justly** and to **love mercy** and to **walk humbly with your God.**"*

Micah 6:8

God has to right the wrong in us before we can right the wrongs around us.



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"All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD..."

Claim #1: We get to define what is good and right.

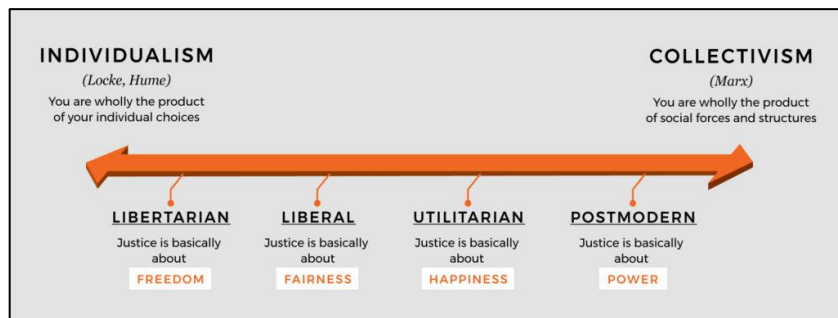
God's response: He will refine us and right what is wrong in us.

The God of Justice (Malachi 2:17; 3:1, 5-7)

"Where is the God of justice?"

Claim #2: God's justice is absent.

Which *justice* are we talking about?



God's response: The God of justice is present.

Biblical justice:

1. aligns with what God defines as good, right, and true.
2. calls us to join God in *his* work of righting the wrongs around us.

"I will come... against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty."

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