

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

24/2/13

Children frequently and loudly proclaim that events or decisions are unfair. Their value system is immature and blind to many of the realities of life and balanced decision making. Likewise, many adults see Christian principles as unfair or unacceptable, with many Christians themselves wrestling over scriptural principles they find 'old fashioned' or too painful to contemplate. The simple reality is that God has always elevated the common good, higher than our personal ambitions, because his values include many aspects of life and death that the human race is totally incapable of considering. The following verses give a simple but balanced approach that reveal why God's priorities may differ from ours.

Many say God is not fair.

EZE 18:25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not **your ways unequal?** *God created us and knows what we need more than we do... both now and later.*

This parable reveals a big difference between what we see and God see, as being equal and fair.

MAT 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. *This parable is about human fairness and equality as opposed to God's.* **11** And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, **12** Saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. **13** But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? **14** Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. **15** Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

The prodigal son parable, reveals God's reason for the difference between our values and his.

LUK 15:26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. *A party is underway.* **27** And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, **because he hath received him safe and sound** *(the reason for the celebration is revealed).* **28** And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. **29** And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: **30** But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. *The older brothers values differ from God's.* **31** And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. **32** It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was **dead**, and is **alive again**; and was **lost**, and is **found**. *The battle between life and death is more important to God than brotherly jealousy... God's love is greater than natural affection and reveals that our love for one another needs to be the same as God's love for us.*

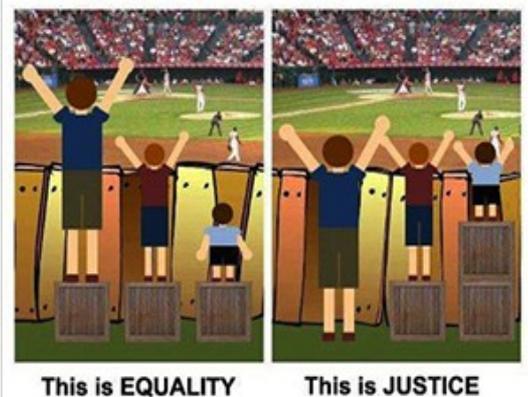
Equality and justice (fairness) are not always the same.

It is our lack of understanding that confuses what true fairness is. This picture reveals the difference between equality and fairness. It can be far different that what we might imagine in the first instance.

Further to the above principles, Jesus promises to correct any imbalances that you may suffer for his sake. **LUK 10:30** And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. **31** And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, **34** And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. *The Lord will make up any cost you suffer for his works sake... that's fair.*

Equality is not always Justice



This is EQUALITY

This is JUSTICE