

Conversation Café

Justice

Justice is defined as just behavior or treatment, "a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people. It is the quality of being fair and reasonable." How many times have you heard someone say, "**That's not fair,**" only to hear the response, "Well, life's not always fair?"

While they were probably talking about not being able to do something they wanted to and how unfair that was, sometimes unfairness is much more serious and is a violation of social justice. While it can be challenging to give an exact definition to social justice, the general idea is that institutions in society should allow equal opportunities to all people without engaging in discrimination.



Discussion Questions:

1. Talk about a time when something unfair happened to you. How did you feel about it and how did you deal with it?
2. When have you been tempted to correct an unfair situation by yourself?
3. Do you believe that how you treat others is how they will treat you? Explain why or why not.
4. Where do you think we get our sense of fairness and justice from?
5. Do you think Canada's laws are, in general, just? Explain.
6. Would it be a good thing to have total freedom (no laws and no guidelines)? Why or why not?
7. What are some ways in which the laws of your first country, and now, Canadian laws, have personally helped you?
8. What are some ways following the law has made your life more difficult?
9. How does one know that following the law is always morally correct? Can you think of one example where following the law would be morally wrong? Talk about why following the law in that instance would be wrong. How can one judge whether or not following the law is the correct thing to do?

UNFAIR!



Is JUSTICE important to God?

- Read two messages from the Prophets of the Bible written over 2,000 years ago.

“I can’t stand your religious meetings. I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me? Do you know what I want? **I want justice**—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.”
Amos 5:21-24 The Message

“This is God’s Message: **Attend to matters of justice**. Set things right between people. Rescue victims from their exploiters. Don’t take advantage of the homeless, the orphans, the widows. Stop the murdering!” *Jeremiah 22:3*

- ❖ What do you think of these messages about Justice?
- ❖ Why does God care more about justice than religion?

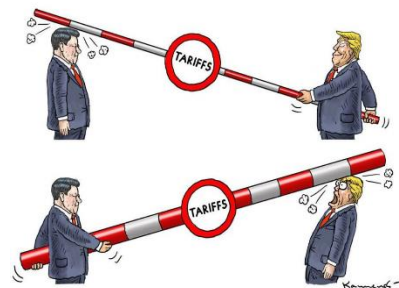
IDIOMS:

To get your just desserts – to get fair consequences for something bad or negative you’ve done. For instance, *When James hit Rob, Rob gave James a black eye in return. Rob said to James, “You’re getting your just desserts.”*



Fair and square – for something to be fair or equal. *When Jane took care of Ruth’s children for a day, she expected Ruth to take care of her children the next week. To Jane, that seemed fair and square.*

Tit for tat – a negative expression meaning to give someone the same kind of bad treatment as they gave you. *If you never send your friends birthday cards, but you expect them to send you a card on your birthday, you’re not being fair – and your friends may decide to do tit for tat and not send you a card.*



To take justice into your own hands – to decide to correct an unfair situation on your own – without the help of others, whose responsibility it may be to help. *Laura’s sister was hurt by a bully at school. Instead of going to the teacher, Laura took justice into her own hands and beat up the bully.*