

God's Righteousness and Justice

- In Scripture: (see also: Ps 33:5; 147:17; Isa 45:19; Neh 9:33)
 - Deut 32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”
 - Gen 18:25 “Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”
 - Ps 89:14 “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne”
- Definition of righteousness: that which is in keeping with God's holy character
- Definition of justice: God's righteousness applied to his creation
- Justice manifested in two ways:
 - Negatively: retributive justice against the wicked, God's holy anger (Gen 2:17; Rom 6:23; John 3:36; 2 Thess 1:5–10)
 - Positively: God vindicating the righteous and rewarding them (2 Thess 1:5,7; Rom 2:7; Matt 25:21)
- Necessity of justice:
 - Bavinck: God doesn't owe justice to us, but to his covenant, which is to the honor of his name
 - God must do justice, but he is free in his expression of it (Rom 3:25–26)
- What do we do when God doesn't seem just?
 - Resources from the book of Job; Isa 45:9; Rom 9:20–21:
 - Who are we to question him? (cf. Job 9:12; 40:4)
 - God's justice is often delayed; all will be made plain in the end
 - If it satisfies God, it will be satisfactory for us: he has a much higher view of justice than we!
- God deserves praise for his justice: cf. the entire psalter! eg, Ps 9:1–4; 18:46–47
- Evaluate the sentence: “Justice requires God to punish murderers.”

God's Love

- In Scripture: (see also: Zeph 3:17; 1 John 4:10, 16; Rom 8:35–39)
 - Rom 5:8 “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - Eph 2:4–5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us . . . made us alive together with Christ”
- Definition of love: “self-giving for the benefit of others” (Grudem)
- God's love begins with himself, in the Father's love for the Son and the Son's for the Father (John 3:35; 5:20)
- God's love for Christ is the foundation of his love to us (Eph 1:4–6)
- God loves all those things where he sees his own glory (Ps 11:7)
 - God loves all people with a general love (Matt 5:44–45; Ps 145:8–9; Matt 11:28–30; 1 Tim 2:4)
 - But he saves his special, saving love for his chosen ones, who are in Christ (John 3:36; 14:21; Rom 5:1; 9:12–13).
- God's love for his church is gracious, astonishing, constant, unswerving, intense, generous, unbegrudging and free, happy, holy, wise, patient, and kind.

“[God is] most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; **and** withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.” (WCF 2.1)