

SOCIAL JUSTICE TRADITION: THE COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:29-37

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Introduction

What is the 'Social Justice' Tradition?

I. Biblical Basis for the Social Justice Tradition

OT Foundations

God's Nature: His Image and Justice

OT Laws and the Prophets (Micah 6:6-8)

NT: Jesus and Social Justice

The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:35-40)

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)

Jesus Embodied Social Justice

The Goal of Biblical Social Justice: A Vision of God's Complete Shalom (True Peace)

II. Advocates of the Social Justice Tradition

1. William Wilberforce
2. William Booth (Salvation Army)
3. Martin Luther King Jr.

III. Strengths of the Social Justice Tradition

1. It Helps Society Live in the Right Way – Through Right Relationships and Right Living
2. It Reminds Us That the Church is for Everyone
3. It Connects Our Personal Ethics with Society's Needs

IV. Potential Pitfalls of the Social Justice Tradition

1. It Can Become the Main Focus Instead of God
2. It Can Lead to Judgmental Attitudes
3. It Can Be Used for Political Agendas

V. Living Out: Embracing the Compassionate Life

Personal Renewal

Reach Out to the Last, the Least and the Lost in Real and Tangible Ways

When Opportunity Arises, Share Your Testimony and the Gospel of Jesus

Conclusion

As we journey through Lent, let us commit ourselves:

To give our time, to pray and to give.