

## God Is What?! (His Attributes)

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### God Is Justice And Mercy

Remember: In this series, we are learning about the **attributes** of God and His **character** – or what God **is**.

- So God's attributes are what God **is**, not what God **does**.

If God's attributes are something that He **has** rather than something that He **is**, then He might **lose** them or He might use them up or **run out**.

1. God's attributes are not just what He **does**, they are who He **is**.

\* God is **justice** and He is **mercy**.

I didn't say God is **just** and He is **merciful**.

This is what I'm trying to say:

2. God Himself is **just** because He is **justice**, and He is **merciful** because God is **mercy**.

Let's now talk about the definition of justice and mercy.

- Justice is **giving** someone what He deserves.
- Mercy is **not giving** someone what He deserves.

Question: How can God be justice and mercy?

Question: How can God (**justice**) give someone what He deserves? Not give someone (**mercy**) what He deserves?

3. God was **completely just** when He dealt with you and He is **completely merciful** when He dealt with you.

Here it is: How did or does God do this?

### **Psalm 89:14**

**14** Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

[Notice in the same verse the words, **mercy** and **justice** describing God]

### **Psalm 101:1**

I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O Lord, I will sing praises.

### **Isaiah 30:18**

**18** Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

### **Hosea 2:19-20**

**19** "I will betroth you (or **mercy**) to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; **20** I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.

4. God was saying, salvation was **wrought** by justice and mercy.
- Well Pastor, maybe God is more merciful than just
5. The answer to that statement is **no**, everything God is, He is **fully** or **complete**.

To understand this completely, let's understand God and His justice and mercy.

Let's start with justice:

A. God is the **full embodiment** of justice.

### **Ezekiel 18:25**

**25** "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' (Other translations use: **right**, **just**, or **equal**) Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair (**just**, **right**, or **equal**), and your ways which are not fair (**just**, **right**, or **equal**)?"

### **Ezekiel 18:26-29**

**26** When a righteous *man* turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. **27** Again, when a wicked *man* turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. **28** Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. **29** Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?"

The word, fair is normally translated in the Old Testament as **just**.

The Hebrew meaning of the word is: **morally equal**.

- We were all born morally **un-equal**.

There is an **inequity** in us.

Inequity comes from the same root word for **iniquity**.

Justice means to be morally equal. If you have ever gone to a courthouse, you see the statue or a picture of the lady holding the scale.

The meaning of the scale is this:

- When someone goes to court, they put all the **evidence** on one side of the scale.

- On the other side of the scale, they put **justice**.
- Then they weigh out if the person is **guilty** or **not-guilty**.

Judgment is the **application** of justice.

6. When a judge renders a **judgement**, it is supposed to be the **application** of justice.

God is the only one **just**.

God is the only one **morally equal**.

When God's justice confronts us, we are all found **lacking**.

Explanation:

- Put God's **justice** on one side of the scale and our **righteousness** and **works** on the other side.

The picture is – **5 trillion tons** on God's side and a **feather** on our side.

We still need God's **mercy**.

So how can God be both justice and mercy?

God is **one**, He is not **part**.

God is not part justice and part mercy, part love, part truth.

7. God is **all** justice, **all** mercy, **all** love, **all** truth, and **all** righteousness – God is **one**.

When scripture states God is one, it's not really speaking of the trinity, it is saying **all that He is**, is one.

God is **self-contained**

God is **self-existing**

God is not harmonious because harmony is having **parts**.

His attributes do not war **against** each other.

Justice doesn't demand God, God **demand**s justice.

- It is not an outside force, it is who He **is**.

How can God be just and merciful to me?

Answer: God says to every person in the world, get on the **scales**.

- Finally someone simply said – Gary, you can't add up! You can't do the right thing that is equal to God, justice.
- Jesus Christ has already done it for you.
- The only thing you can do is receive Him.
- I am morally unequal; I am a sinner and in myself, I can't do it.
- Jesus, will you come into my life and Jesus Christ stepped on the scales with me.  
When Jesus stepped on the scale with me, a shout came from the other side of the scale and said: **EQUAL**.

8. On the day I received Christ, God's justice was **satisfied**.

I'm going to Heaven because of God's **justice**, not just His mercy.

- It was God's **justice** that brought **salvation**  
(Romans 8:24-26)

### 1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In His mercy, He sent Christ – the sin was **paid** and in His justice – we are forgiven because Christ paid my debt in **full**.

## Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom  
the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there  
is no deceit.

Why does He not impute iniquity to me?

Answer: Because He already imputed iniquity to **Christ**.

9. God's justice **sentences** me to Heaven and **justified** me.

Second thing:

B. God is the **full embodiment** of mercy.

- God's mercy has no **beginning** or **end**.
- God's mercy doesn't **increase** or **decrease**.

Mercy is because God **is**.

10. It was His mercy that sent **Christ** and His mercy does not **diminish**.

Lamentations says the reason we are not consumed is because God is **mercy**.

## Psalm 136:1-4

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever. 2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. 3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: 4 To Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever;

- Verses 5-26 say His mercy endures forever.

Question: Why doesn't God immediately judge the wicked?

Answer: Because He didn't **immediately** judge you.

### **Ezekiel 33:11**

11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

It doesn't please the Father that a wicked man dies – He wants **all** saved.

Definition of mercy: is too **compassionate** to man.

Mercy – God put His **empathy** into action.

11. God did in His mercy what was in His ability to do; to **redeem** us.

### **Matthew 16:21-23**

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- God's justice **could not** have justified me if His mercy didn't send Christ to the cross.
  - \* Because God's mercy sent Christ to the Cross, God's justice can now say to us – **justified**.

The debt was paid in **full**.