

# Law, Grace, and Citizenship

## Labor Day Conference—2012

### Session #4 (2 Sep): "What Real 'Social Justice' Looks Like--Part 2"

#### I. REVIEW & TRANSITION

#### II. SAMPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Looking at ten commandments as they were illustrated in daily life as "social justice"

**3rd & 9th commandments: Integrity of language vertically and horizontally**  
**3rd commandment**

**12:32 I command. . .take care to do**

**not add or take away**

**12:32**

**13:1 if. . .(v3 is the "then" clause)**

**13:2 sign or wonder comes to pass**

**let us go after other gods. . .and serve them**

This is the "[rational consistency test]" test which is why the many authors of the books of the Bible maintained a consistent message across the centuries utterly unlike any other religion in the history of man. God's Word has linguistic integrity because God has integrity. He means what He says, and says what He means.

**13:3 not listen**

**God is testing you**

**if you are a lover of Yahweh with heart. . .soul (*nephesh*)**

**13:4 after Yahweh your God you will walk;**

**Him you will fear**

**His commandments you will keep;**

**His voice you will hear**

**Him you will serve;**

**To Him you will cling**

What is the emphasis here? The people or the Lord?

**13:5 put to death. . .because he has spoken rebellion (Heb: *sarah*) against Yahweh**

Note vocabulary of **Jer 28** here

**Who brought you out. . .and ransomed you from the house of bondage. . .**

Here is the justification for such severe judgment: destruction of God's saving work

## **You will burn evil from your midst**

**9th commandment:** life-blood of social life, especially business engine of a society

**19:14-21**

**19:14 landmark**

**19:15-21 false witness protocol**

**23:21-23**

*A promise given is a debt owed because the promisee makes economically important decisions assuming certainty of performance. If the performance fails, then he is owed for the added costs of acting on the promise.*

**24:14-15 keep employment agreements**

**25:15 just weights** currency debasement (cf. **Isa 1:22**)

**4th & 8th commandments: labor & property**

**4th commandment**--workaholic, lazy, tightwad behaviors

**14:22-29 tithing** (against tightwad behavior)

basic idea in **8:3** and **Jas 4:13-16** *labor is necessary but not sufficient to generate wealth*

3 tithes:

(1) Levites were given tithes for an inheritance (**Lev 27:30-33; Num 18:21-24**) [not socialism because it was their family inheritance]

(2) Extravagant use of wealth which required faith that the Lord would provide

(3) The so-called "poor tithe" **14:28** every third year so annual rate was 23 1/3%

**15:1-6 7th year economic shut-down** (against "workaholicism")

**15:6 loan. . .not borrow. . .**

**15:7-11** trust the Lord (**15:10**)

**15:12-18**

**8th commandment**

**Ex 22 restitution**

**22:1-4 positive, not just negative**

**23:24-25 respect for private property**

Derivative Ownership Principle:

Pagan view of property:

**24:6 millstone for a pledge**

**24:9-13 pledge**

### III. CONCLUSION

**1,2,10** ==> clash with whole world over the authority to be followed from the heart

**3,9** ==> integrity of language applies to communicating the Word of God (capital crime), all records and accounting; court proceedings, vows & contract promises, employment agreements, unchanging weights & measures

**4, 8**==> labor & property are economic issues necessary for society to exist; tithing, sabbatical rests tested owner's faith in God; loans were limited to prevent debt-slavery; property respected but ownership as unto the Lord; government intrusion in **1 Sam 8** & **1 Kings 21**.