

“I don't see the necessity of being a Christian.
I think you just need to do good in this life”

“What is the Christian motivation for doing good?”

Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.

Seeking justice and living with righteousness

Isaiah 56: 1-8

Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
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and my righteousness be revealed.

² Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to
the LORD say,

“The LORD will surely separate me from his
people”;

and let not the eunuch say,

“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the LORD:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane
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and holds fast my covenant—
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and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
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The pairing of “**righteousness** and **justice**” occurs more than 30 times in the Old Testament

Isaiah 1:17: "Learn to do **right**; seek **justice**. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow"

Proverbs 8:20: "I walk in the way of **righteousness**, along the paths of **justice**".

Psalms 37:30: "The mouths of the **righteous** utter wisdom, and their tongues speak what is **just**"

Amos 5:24 "But let **justice** roll down like water, **righteousness** like an ever-flowing stream"

Psalms 33:5 "He loves **righteousness** and **justice**"

Psalms 106:3 "Blessed are they who observe **justice**, who do **righteousness** at all times!"

Justice and righteousness are the foundations of God's throne

"**Righteousness** and **justice** are the **foundation of your throne**; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you".

Psalms 89: 14

then **a throne will be established** in steadfast love,
and on it will sit in faithfulness
in the tent of David
one who judges and **seeks justice**
and is swift to **do righteousness.**"

Isaiah 16:5

Practicing **justice** and **righteousness** delights God

²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, **justice, and righteousness** in the earth. **For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”**

Jeremiah 19:23=24

Justice and righteousness are the characteristics of the ministry of Jesus Christ

¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute **justice** and **righteousness** in the land.

Jeremiah 33: 14-15

Living for **Justice** and **righteousness** flows out as a response to being Born Again

Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.

How we usually understand justice



How we usually understand righteousness



Do a Google search on “*Hebrew word for justice in the bible*”

- **Mishpat**

- Means "justice" or "equality" and is used to describe the act of rendering a just decision in court. It can also mean giving people their rights, such as punishment, protection, or care.

- **Tzedek**

- Means "justice" and is a fundamental value that encompasses morality and righteousness. The Torah considers tzedek to be a life-or-death issue.

(AI overview)

Do a Google search on “*Hebrew word for righteousness in the bible*”

The Hebrew word for righteousness is **tzedek**, which can also mean "justice". In Judaism, tzedek is a fundamental value that includes morality and righteousness, and is not limited to fair treatment and equal opportunities (AI overview)

Mishpat

Tzedakah

Thus says the LORD:

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² Blessed is the man who does this,
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•Mishpat

•Means "justice" and refers to how righteousness is upheld in society through laws, systems, and human actions. It can also mean treating people equitably, giving people their rights, and caring for victims of unjust treatment.

•Tzedakah

•Means "righteousness" and refers to the innate fairness and righteousness of an act itself. It's primarily about being in a *right relationship with God*, but the righteous life that results is also social.

¹⁴ I put on righteousness (*Tzedakah*), and it clothed me;

my justice (*Mishpat*) was like a robe and a turban.

¹⁵ I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.

¹⁶ I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know.

¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth.

Job 29:14- 17

Tim Keller on justice (*mishpat*) and righteousness (*tzedakah*) in Isaiah 56

- **Justice:**

1. To seek justice against those who do wrong
2. To comfort the victims of injustice
3. To be involved in systems and structures for justice as defined above

- **Righteousness:**

1. Right relationships that lead to justice
2. Right relationships begins with your relationship with God

The Gospel brings about justice and righteousness to us, others and society

- **Justice:**

1. To seek justice against those who do wrong (*all have done injustice and Jesus paid the price for this on the Cross*)
2. To comfort the victims of injustice (*we deserve judgement but the free gift of salvation brings comfort*)
3. To be involved in systems and structures for justice as defined above (*we proclaim the Kingdom of God that brings in justice in all areas of life*)

- **Righteousness:**

1. Right relationships that lead to justice (*forgiving those who practice injustice to us and repenting on the injustices we do to others*)
2. Right relationships begins with your relationship with God (*justice and righteousness is a natural response to the grace of God we receive*)

Live justly and with righteousness



Disadvantage yourself to advantage others OR disadvantage others to advantage yourself

A student who takes a reserved book out of the library to get an A, leaving the rest of the class to get a lower grade, is wicked (i.e., a fool). By contrast a student who resists the temptation to check out a rare book from the library so that his or her classmates have the opportunity to read and write an 'A' paper, even if it means he gets a lower grade, is righteous (i.e., wise). **Righteousness, the disadvantaging of oneself to advantage others, is counterintuitive.** Jesus Christ is the supreme example of wisdom according to this definition. *Bruce Waltke "Fundamentals for Preaching the Book of Proverbs, Part 3," Bibliotheca Sacra 165 (2008): 261-262*

**LAOS: SIX DEAD
FROM POSSIBLE
METHANOL
POISONING**



“I don't see the necessity of being a Christian.
I think you just need to do good in this life”

Disadvantage yourself to advantage others OR
disadvantage others to advantage yourself



- Do you drag payment to your vendors
- Do you make a habit of squeezing vendors for a higher margin
- Do you downplay risks to promote your career and then hide the paper trail so it cannot come back to you in case something wrong happens
- Do you keep quiet at management meetings when you know unethical practices are happening
- Do you do subtle manoeuvres to ensure those that usually question what you do are not heard
- Do you distort truths so very subtly to ensure your narratives of events becomes the accepted version of truth

Live to disadvantage yourself to advantage the good of others
that they might see Christ in you

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:4-11

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“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;

and let not **the eunuch** say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

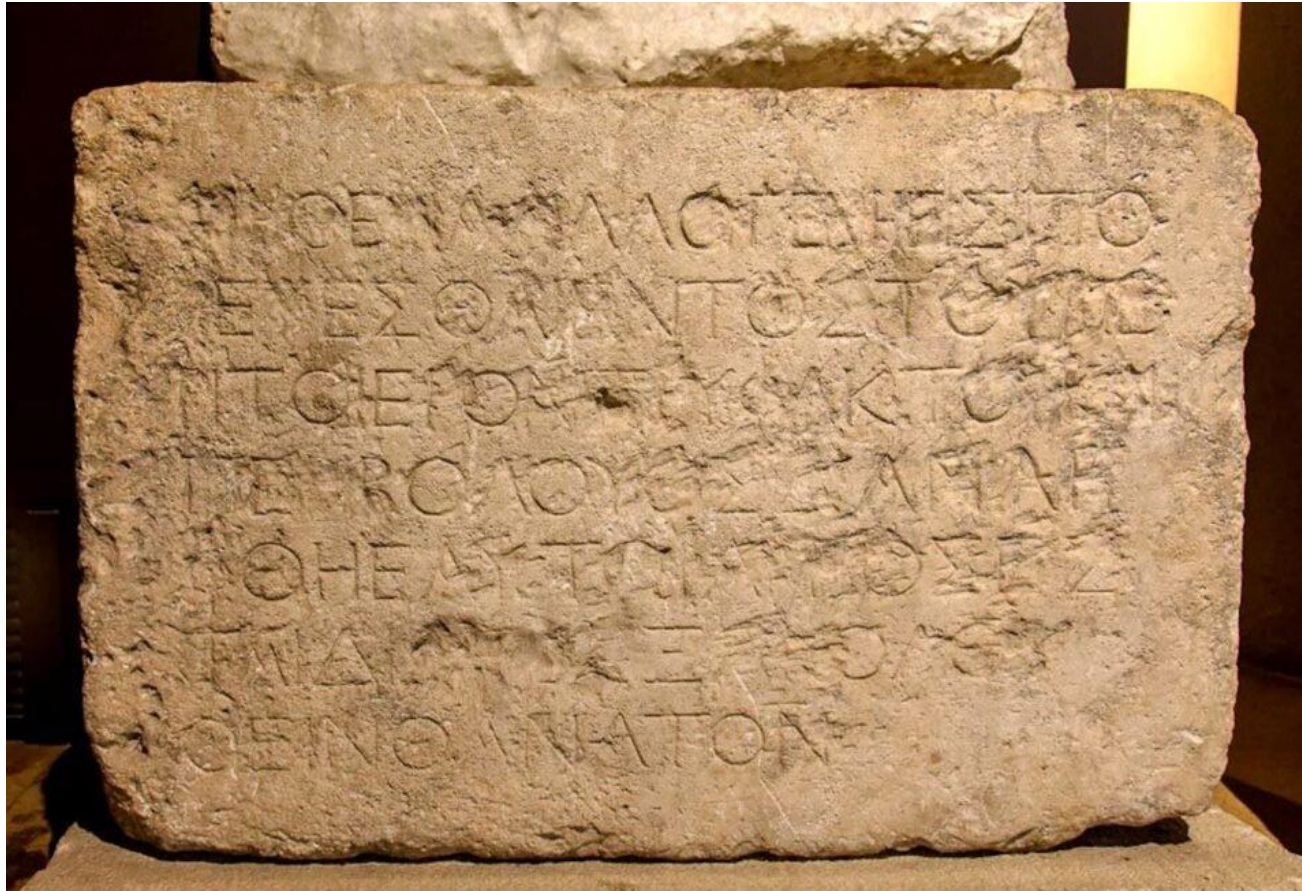
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that shall not be cut off.

Foreigners in the time of Isaiah



“No foreigner is to enter within the balustrade and forecourt around the sacred precinct. Whoever is caught will himself be responsible for (his) consequent death.”
Inscription in Jerusalem Temple outer court

Foreigners today in a secular inclusive society



The foreigners Isaiah would have referred to today



¹⁹ “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the **sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow**, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. Deuteronomy 24:19

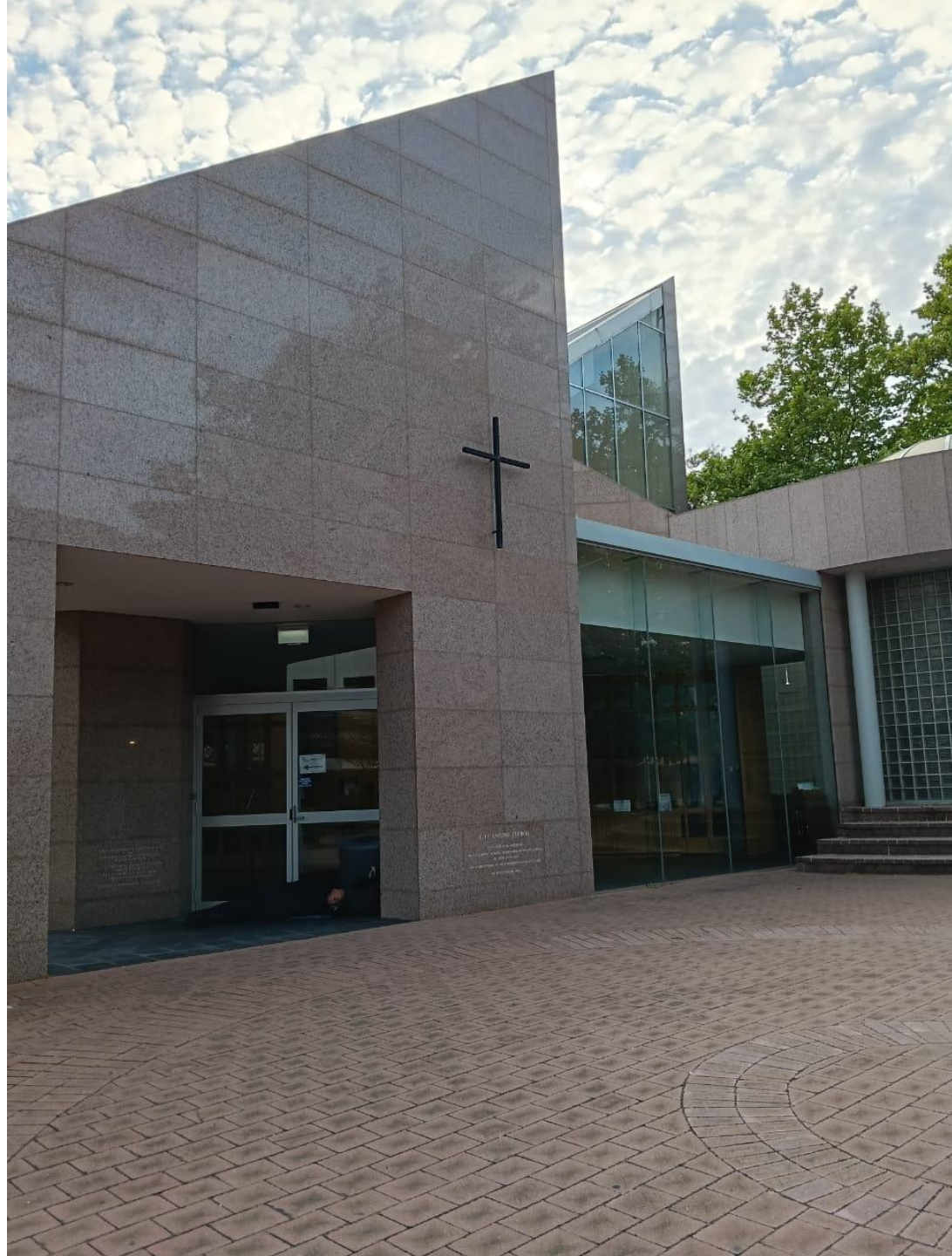












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The church removes every barrier to welcome
all people groups



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Relief from the site of Kyzikos in Asia Minor dating to the year 46 BCE, depicting a Gallus Eunuch worshipping the goddess Kybele

Western society

- Individualism
- I choose my lifestyle
- I choose my gender
- I choose what to do with my body

Western society

- Individualism
- I choose my lifestyle
- I choose my gender
- I choose what to do with my body

Eastern society

- The Family
- *Why no girlfriend?*
- *Why not married?*
- *Why no children?*
- **“You are only a dry tree”**



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A Funny Bone to Pick

SINGLEHOOD

The Number-One Problem With Being Single

What to do when singlehood reminds you you're no one's number-one.

Updated October 26, 2024

Reviewed by Hara Estroff Marano



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within my walls
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Living justly and in righteousness

- Live daily to disadvantage yourself for the advantage of others that they might see Christ in you
- Live purposefully to remove all barriers of second class citizens in the local church
- Live intentionally to be truly a spiritual family, especially to those who struggle with loneliness

and let not the eunuch say,

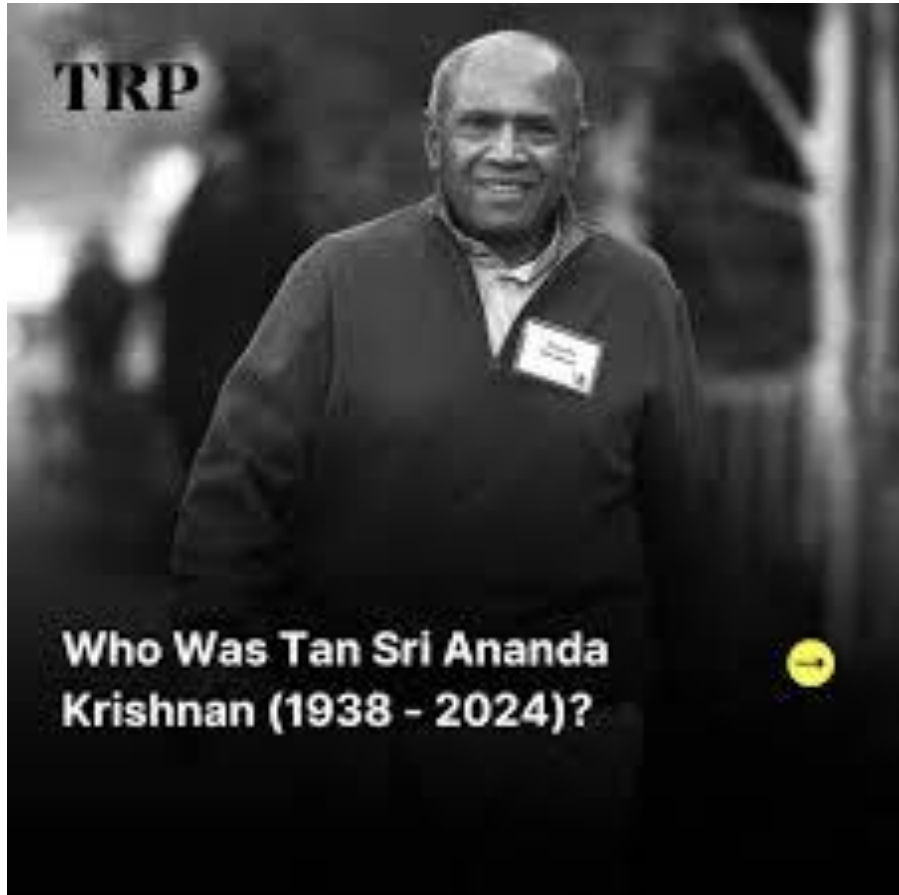
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Steve Jobs



Steve Jobs

1955-2011

Apple has lost a visionary and creative genius, and the world has lost an amazing human being. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to know and work with Steve have lost a dear friend and an inspiring mentor. Steve leaves behind a company that only he could have built, and his spirit will forever be the foundation of Apple.

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Jeremiah 19:23=24

Living justly and in righteousness

- Live daily to disadvantage yourself for the advantage of others that they might see Christ in you
- Live purposefully to remove all barriers of second class citizens in the local church
- Live intentionally to be part of a spiritual family
- Live knowing your identity is in an everlasting name

What was the name of the foreign eunuch?



His name was:

