

SHOWING FAIRNESS
Building My Life On Values That Last - Part 9

LIFE IS UNFAIR...

1. CRIMINALS _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:16 (LB) "Throughout the earth, justice is giving way to crime and even the courts are corrupt."

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NLT) "When crime isn't punished, people feel it is safe to do wrong."

2. THE OPPRESSED _____.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 (GN) "I saw all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying... and no one would help them... their oppressors had power."

3. POLITICIANS _____.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 (LB) "If you see... miscarriage of justice throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up... So the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy."

Ecclesiastes 10:5-6 (GN) "Here is an injustice... Stupid people are given positions of authority."

4. GOOD PEOPLE _____.

Ecclesiastes 8:14 (GWT) "Sometimes righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve!"

Ecclesiastes 7:15 "It's unfair that some good people die young while some wicked people live on and on and on."

5. CAPABLE PEOPLE _____.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 (GN) "In this world fast runners do not always win the races... wise men don't always earn a living, intelligent men don't always get rich, and capable men don't always rise to high positions."

I. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW UNFAIRNESS?

1. BECAUSE HE GIVES US _____.

Deuteronomy 11:26 (NIV) "I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse..."

2. BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:17 (LB) "In due season God will judge everything man does."

3. BECAUSE IT SHOWS _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:18 (LB) "God is letting the world go on its sinful way so he can test mankind, and men will see that they are no better than beasts."

4. BECAUSE IT CAN _____.

Romans 5:4 "... suffering produces character..."

II. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO UNFAIRNESS?

1. ACCEPT IT _____.

1 Peter 4:13 (NCV) "Don't be surprised at the terrible trouble which comes to test you. Don't think that something strange is happening to you. But, be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings, so that you will be full of joy when Christ comes again in glory."

2. RESPOND _____.

Matthew 5:43-44 "Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you."

Jeremiah 22:3 (NLT) "Be fair-minded. Do what is right! Help those in need of justice."

Proverbs 29:7 "The righteous care about justice."

Proverbs 16:17 (LB) "The Lord demands fairness in every business deal."

3. WAIT _____.

1 Peter 2:19 (NCV) "A person might have to suffer even when it is unfair, but if he thinks of God and stands the pain, God is pleased."

1 Peter 4:19 (NLT) "If you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Ph) "These... temporary troubles are winning for us a permanent reward out of all proportion to our pain."