

2018 Spring Bible Study Act Justly

Justice as a Calling (of Christ and Us)

Written by Michelle Loyd-Paige

Executive Associate to the President for Diversity and Inclusion
Calvin College



Welcome!

This spring we will spend seven weeks together studying *Justice*. Calvin College equips students to: think deeply, **act justly**, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ calls us to do. We will explore the biblical and practical dimensions of justice as a calling of Christ and us.

Here are the contributors who wrote the lessons for each week:

- Lesson 1 ó Rev. Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige ó Justice as a Calling (of Christ and Us)
- Lesson 2 ó Dr. Rebecca de Young ó What is Justice?
- Lesson 3 ó Rev. Kyle Meynaard Schaap - Creation Care, Environmental Justice
- Lesson 4 ó Rev. Reggie Smith ó Sanctity of Life
- Lesson 5 ó Dr. Roland Hoksbergen ó Economic Justice
- Lesson 6 ó Rev. Shannon Jamal-Holleman ó Treatment of Stranger, Caring for Poor
- Lesson 7 ó Rev. Kate Kooyman ó Race Relations

What is Justice?

When people feel that they have been wronged, that an institution is not operating fairly, or that groups of people are living in jeopardy, there is often a desire for justice. A desire for justice is a passionate plea for wrongs to be made right, for wrongdoers to be held accountable, for the laws of the land to be equally applied to all, and for the vulnerable to be protected.

It is tempting to think that our desire for justice comes from within ourselves or that we only have to follow the laws in order to act justly. However, justice is not a human creation, justice is one of God's gifts to us:

For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all who fear the LORD. (Isaiah 30: 18).

Justice is more than the defending of individual rights or the condemning of social evils; it is a longing for God.

Reading the Word

Read this passage out loud with your group. (Suggestion: Each person can take a verse.)

Isaiah 61: 1 -

