

# The Heart of Restorative Justice in the Heart of God

Mako A. Nagasawa

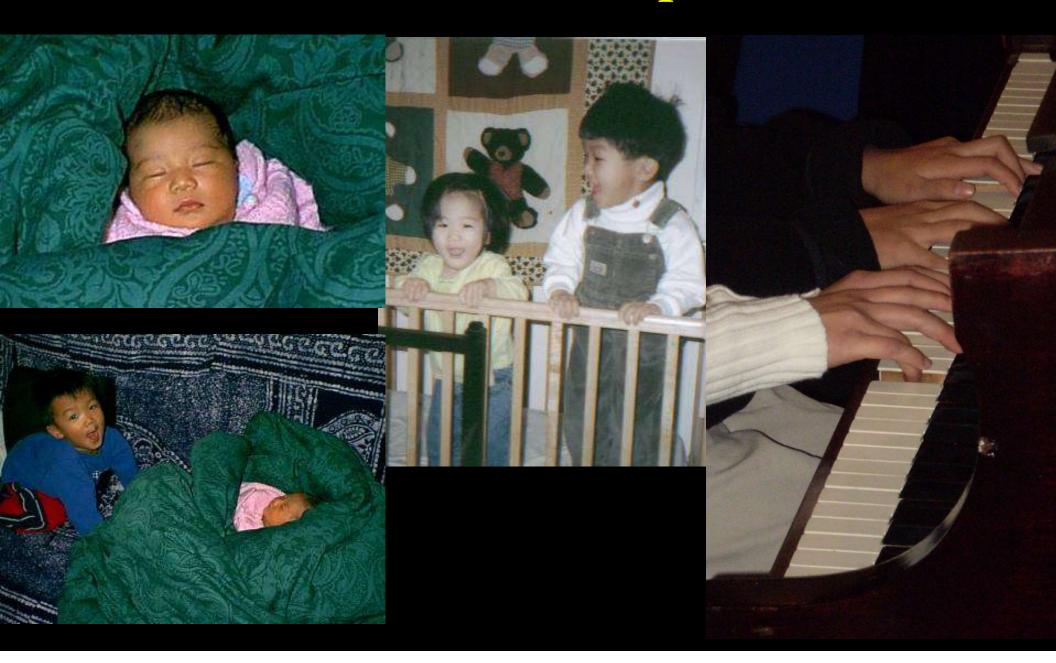
#### A Vision for Relationship







#### A Vision for Relationship



#### A Vision for Relationships of All Types

- Friendships (brother's keeper, sister's keeper)
- Marriage
- Family
- Economic
- Political
- Involving historic injustice

#### An Example

• City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co. (1989)



- Selection by pure merit?
- Meritocratic principle vs. distributive principle

#### An Example

University of California v. Bakke (1978)



- Selection by pure merit?
- Meritocratic principle vs. distributive principle

#### What Kind of Justice? Four Types

- Meritocratic: Reward, punish
- Distributive: Baseline wealth
- Libertarian: Maximize freedom
- Restorative: Vision of relationship

### What is the Most Just Way to Treat People? According to...

Select one

Our merits

Meritocratic Justice

Our needs

Distributive Justice

Our inherent freedom & liberty

Libertarian Justice

A vision for healthy relationships

#### What is the Most Just Way to Treat People? According to... Select one To Republicans #2

Our merits Meritocratic Justice

Our needs

Distributive Justice

Our inherent freedom & liberty

Libertarian Justice

#1 Economicsion for healthy relationships

### What is the Most Just Way to Treat People? According to... Select one Democrats.

#3

Select one

Our needs

Distributive Justice

Our merits Meritocratic Justice

Our inherent freedom & liberty

Libertarian Justice

#1 Social A vision for healthy relationships

### Why Should <u>Your</u> Definition of Justice Prevail?

Select one

Majority opinion

Minority opinion R

Tradition

Theological foundation

Philosophical foundation

There is no "justice," only power

I don't care

I don't know

Other

#### Whose Justice? Which Order?

- Meritocratic: Reward, punish
- Distributive: Baseline wealth
- Libertarian: Maximize freedom
- Restorative: Vision of relationship

• How do you order and organize these?

#### Whose Justice? Which Order?

- Meritocratic: Reward, punish
- Distributive: Baseline wealth
- Libertarian: Maximize freedom
- Restorative: Vision of relationship
- Is your order philosophically grounded, or fundamentally arbitrary?

### Why Should <u>Your</u> Definition of Justice Prevail?

Select one

Majority opinion

Minority opinion
Tradition
RULES

Theological foundation

Philosophical foundation

There is no "justice," only power

For secularists

I don't care

I don't know

Other

#### The Christian Order of Social Justice

- Restorative: God's relational order
- Distributive: Wealth for all
- Meritocratic: Reward, punish
- Libertarian: Legitimate concerns, but incompatible premises
- Grounded in the historicity of Jesus and his resurrection, with Scripture as a witness

#### Restorative Before All Others

- Jesus restores God's original creation order for how we:
  - Forgive and reconcile (Mt.5:21 26; 6:12 15; 18:1 35)
  - Express sexuality and marriage (Mt.19:3 12)
  - Share wealth (Mt.19:13 30)
  - Share power and honor (Mt.20:1 28)



#### Restorative Before All Others

- Jesus restores God's original creation order for how we:
  - Forgive and reconcile (Mt.5:21 26; 6:12 15; 18:1 35)
  - Express sexuality and marriage (Mt.19:3 12)
  - Share wealth (Mt.19:13 30)
  - Share power and honor (Mt.20:1 28)
- God designed relationships for us to fit into
  - 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning...Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you... but from the beginning...' (Mt.19:4, 8)
  - 'In the regeneration...' (Mt.19:28)
  - Thus, we have specific responsibilities, not just rights

#### Distributive Before Meritocratic

#### Mosaic Israel: Land

• Leviticus 25

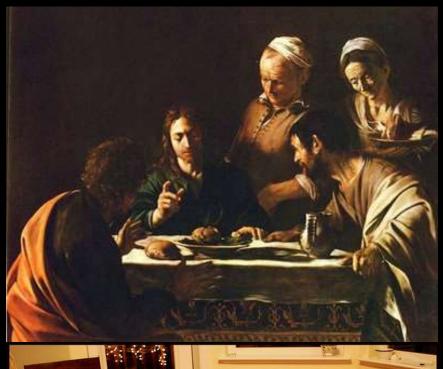
• Deuteronomy 11, 15, 24

• Isaiah 58

• Proverbs 10:4, etc.



#### Distributive Before Meritocratic



#### **Church: Table**

- Matthew 6:19 34; 19:13 30
- Luke 6, 12, 14; Acts 2, 4, 6
- 2 Corinthians 8 9

• 2 Thessalonians 3:10 – 12

#### Libertarian Justice

- Some legitimate concerns
  - The individual is important
  - Freedom of religious conscience
  - Many concerns can be adequately addressed by restorative justice
- Poor logic with other concerns
  - E.g. Why not sell U.S. citizenship on the open market?
  - Leads to divorce, broken friendships, secession
- Incompatible starting points
  - Individualism → relationships merely social constructs
  - A vision of good relations → restorative justice

#### An Example

• City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co. (1989)



• Distributive principle takes priority over meritocratic, generally, with room for variation on how

#### Restorative Before All Others

- Jesus restores human nature to us by his Spirit
  - Our problems are not fixable by a 'hero' outside us (Jesus comes inside us!)

• Each person must choose 'love,' (i.e. Jesus, love incarnate) in appropriate relationship and an appropriate posture



## What is the Most Just Way to Treat People? According to... Select one To Christians

Our merits
Meritocratic Justice

#3

#2

Our needs

Distributive Justice

Our inherent freedom & liberty
Libertarian Justice

A vision for healthy relationships

### Why Should <u>Your</u> Definition of Justice Prevail?

Select one

Majority opinion

Minority opinion RU

Tradition

Theological foundation

Philosophical foundation

There is no "justice," only power

I don't care

I don't know

Other