



THE ANÁSTASIS CENTER
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & MINISTRY

The Heart of Restorative Justice in the Heart of God

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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*

Restorative Justice

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

To Republicans

Select one

#2

Our merits

Meritocratic Justice

Our needs

Distributive Justice

*Our inherent
freedom & liberty*

Libertarian Justice

#1 Economic

*A vision for healthy
relationships*

Restorative Justice

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

To Democrats

Select one

#3

#2

Our merits

Meritocratic Justice

Our needs

Distributive Justice

*Our inherent
freedom & liberty*

Libertarian Justice

#1 Social

*A vision for healthy
relationships*

Restorative Justice



Why Should Your Definition of Justice Prevail?

Select one

Majority opinion

Minority opinion

Tradition

WE MAKE THE RULES

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
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- Restorative: Vision of relationship

- Is your order philosophically grounded, or fundamentally arbitrary?

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For secularists

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

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 - 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

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- 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

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Meritocratic Justice

#3

#2

Our needs
Distributive Justice

*Our inherent
freedom & liberty*
Libertarian Justice

#4

#1

*A vision for healthy
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Restorative Justice

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