

Whose Justice?

Part 2

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ServeUP New Orleans 2013

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

Our merits

Meritocratic Justice

#2

Our needs

Distributive Justice

#1

*Our inherent
freedom & liberty*

Libertarian Justice

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

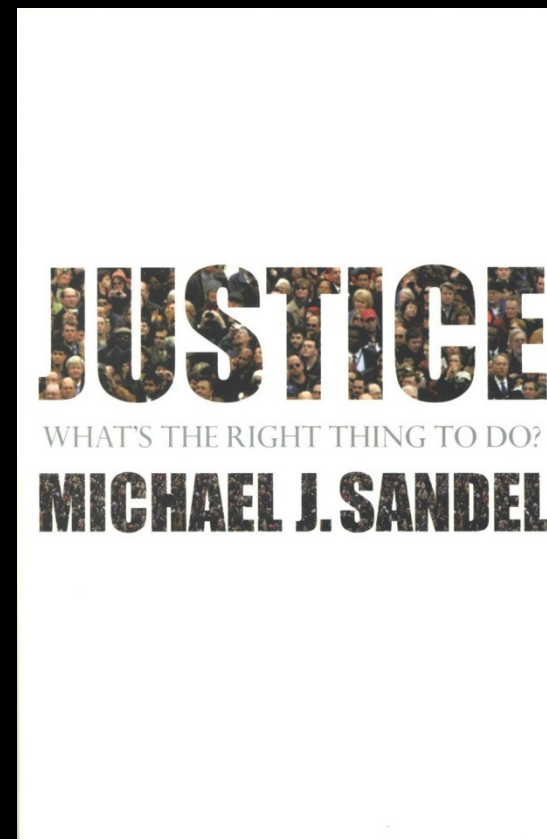
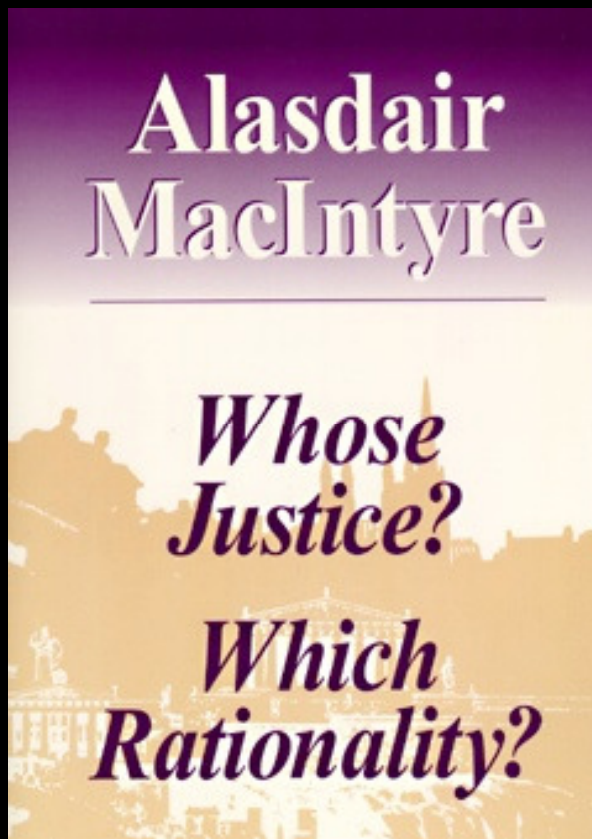
- How do you order and organize these?

Whose Justice? Which Order?

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



Whose Justice? Which Order?



- There is nothing in secular thought that tells us how to organize those 4 principles

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

For secularists

I don't care

I don't know

Other

The Christian Order of Social Justice

- Restorative: God's vision of relationship
- Distributive: Wealth for all
- Meritocratic: Reward, punish
- Libertarian: Legitimate concerns, but incompatible premises
- A Foundation: Grounded in the historicity of Jesus and his resurrection, with Scripture as a witness; you can investigate it

(see <http://nagasawafamily.org/article-resurrection-of-jesus-historical-case-short.pdf>)



Why 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)



Why 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)
 - Monogamous, male-female, lifelong: '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)
 - Share wealth (Mt.19:13 – 30)
 - Radical generosity: '**In the regeneration**...' (Mt.19:28)
 - Share power and honor (Mt.20:1 – 28)



Why Distributive Before Meritocratic?

Mosaic Israel: Land

- Leviticus 25
- Deuteronomy 13
- Isaiah 58

- Proverbs 10:4, etc.



Why 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

What About Libertarian Justice?

- Some legitimate concerns
 - The individual is important
 - Many concerns can be adequately addressed from within Christian restorative justice
 - Freedom of religious conscience, mobility, speech
- But is this really the highest principle?
 - Why not sell U.S. citizenship on the open market?
 - Why not secede, break friendships, divorce?
 - Are all relationships really just optional social constructs?



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

#4

#1

*A vision for healthy
relationships*
Restorative Justice



Why Should Your Definition of Justice Prevail?

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Christian Restorative Justice Approaches

- It's not that every answer is suddenly obvious, but that there is a guiding framework
- Humility is still necessary to listen, learn, discern, and offer solutions

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

- **Economic Growth: Subordinate to Relationship & Virtue**
‘Too much and too long, we seem to have surrendered community excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. Our gross national product ... if we should judge America by that - counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for those who break them. It counts the destruction of our redwoods and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and the cost of a nuclear warhead, and armored cars for police who fight riots in our streets. It counts Whitman’s rifle and Speck’s knife, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children...



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

- Economic Growth: Subordinate to Relationship & Virtue
‘...Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it tells us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.’

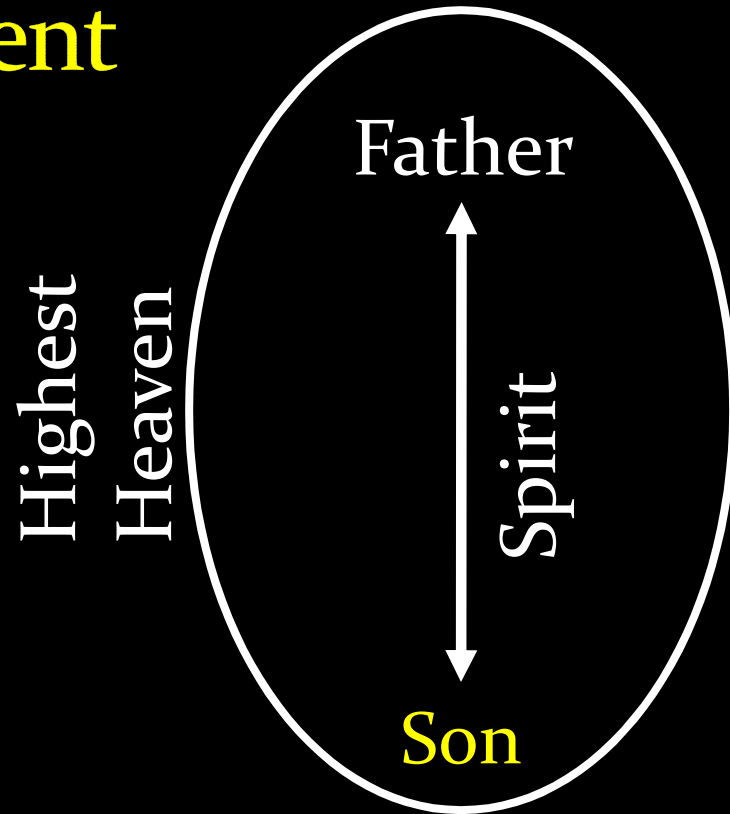
(Robert F. Kennedy, speech in 1968)

- But where does this conviction and vision come from? (Not the Democratic Party, but Catholic Social Teaching)



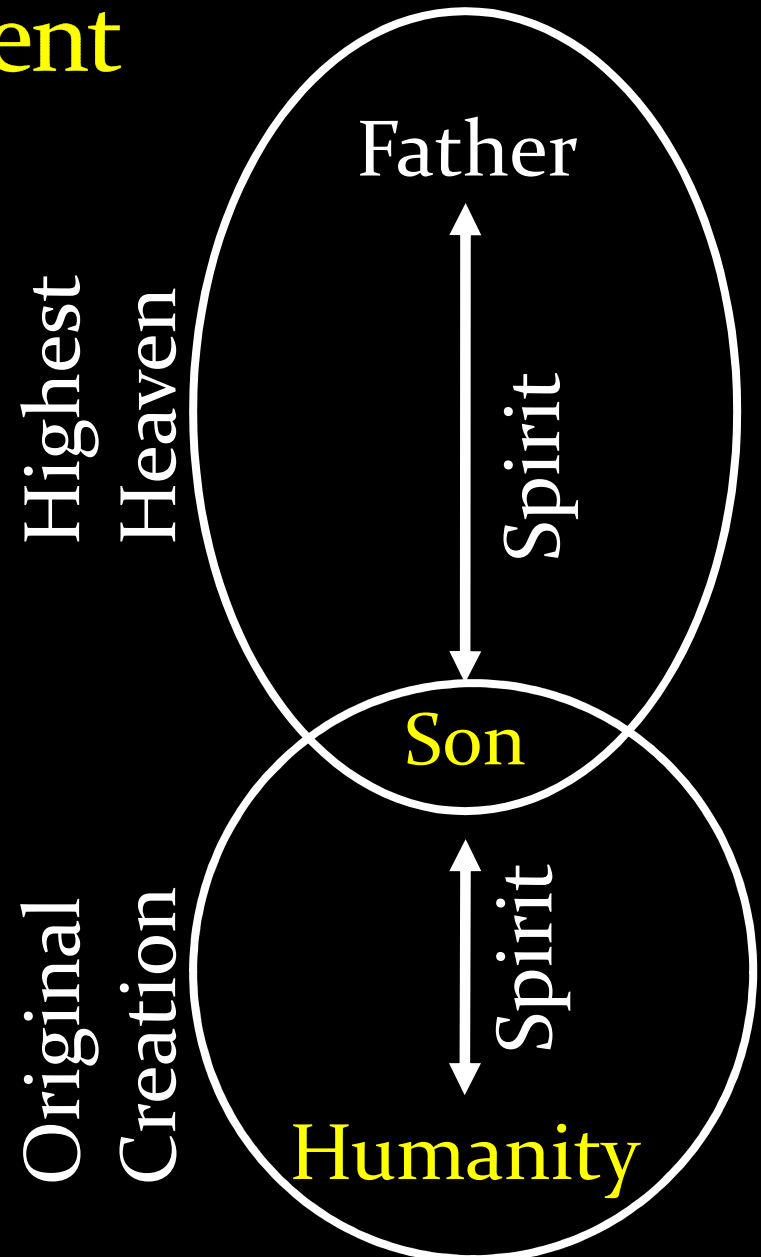
Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

- Theologically: God has relations of love inside Himself



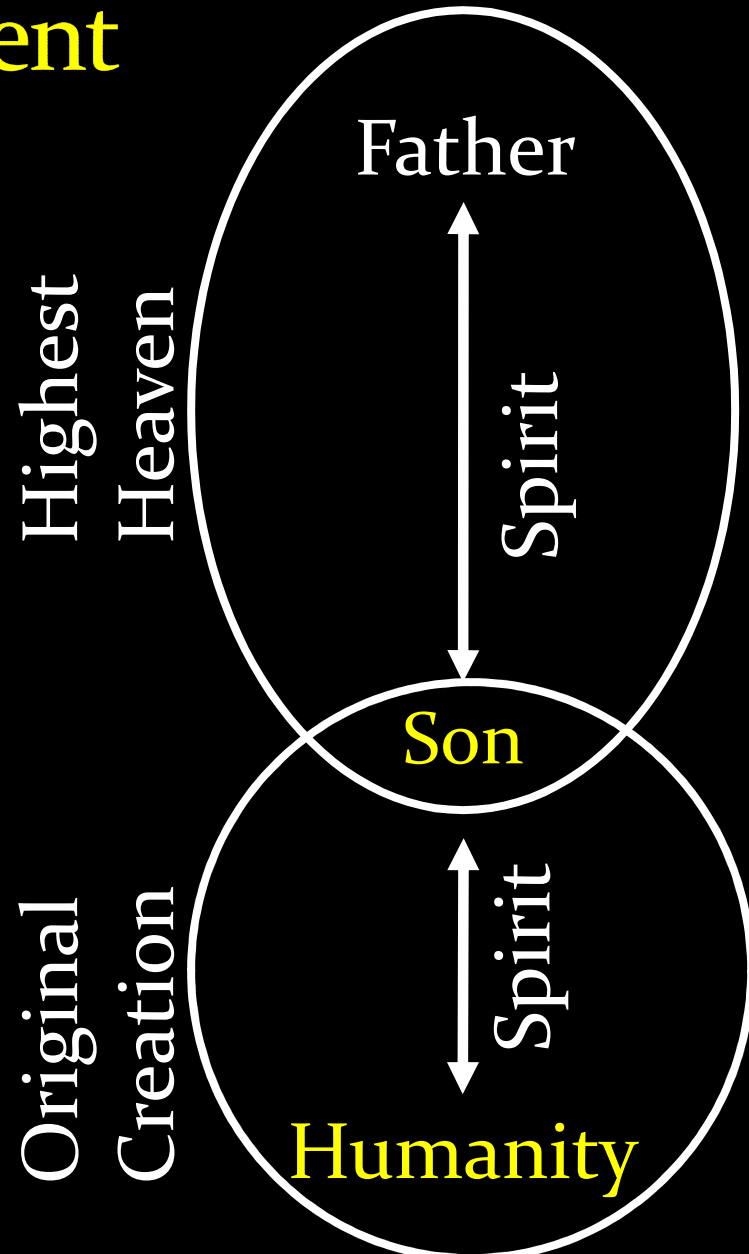
Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

- Theologically: God takes the relations of love inside Himself as a pattern for relations of love outside Himself



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

- Theologically: The Father blesses the Son in the life-giving context of the Spirit
- God blesses humans in the life-giving context of the creation
- God's creation is His gift to all, for the sake of relationship



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development

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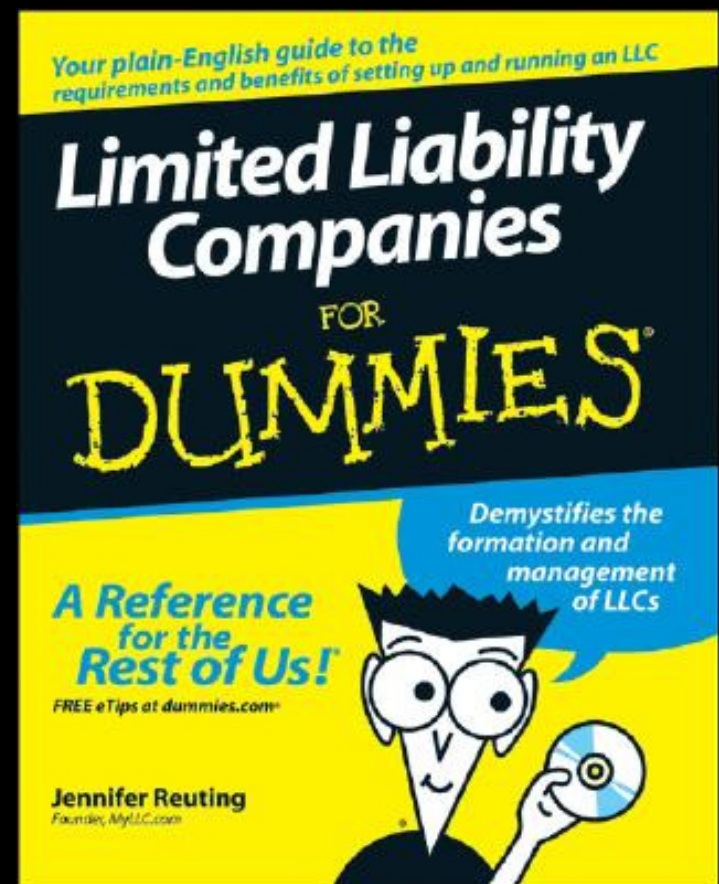
‘Sanctify the fiftieth year... Proclaim freedom all over the land to everyone who lives in it—a Jubilee for you: Each person will go back to his family’s property and reunite with his extended family.. The land cannot be sold permanently because the land is Mine and you are foreigners—you’re My tenants.’
(Leviticus 25:10, 23)

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development: Nationally

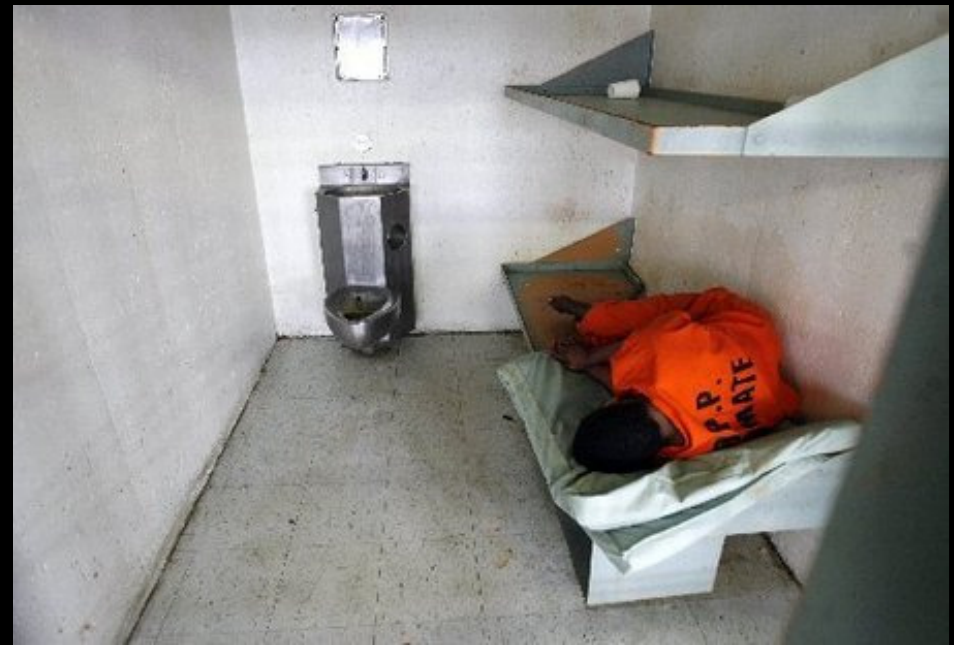
- How do people relate to each other through material things?
- Relational questions (restorative and distributive justice) must be answered first
 - What do we owe coal miners, oil drillers, spill cleaners?
 - Notice the dangers of certain energy industries
 - Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* (1973)
 - What do we owe future generations?

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Economic Development: Nationally

- Is 'limited liability' a form of theft? (Exodus 22:1 – 15)
 - What do we owe people who are harmed by companies?
 - A violation of meritocratic justice?

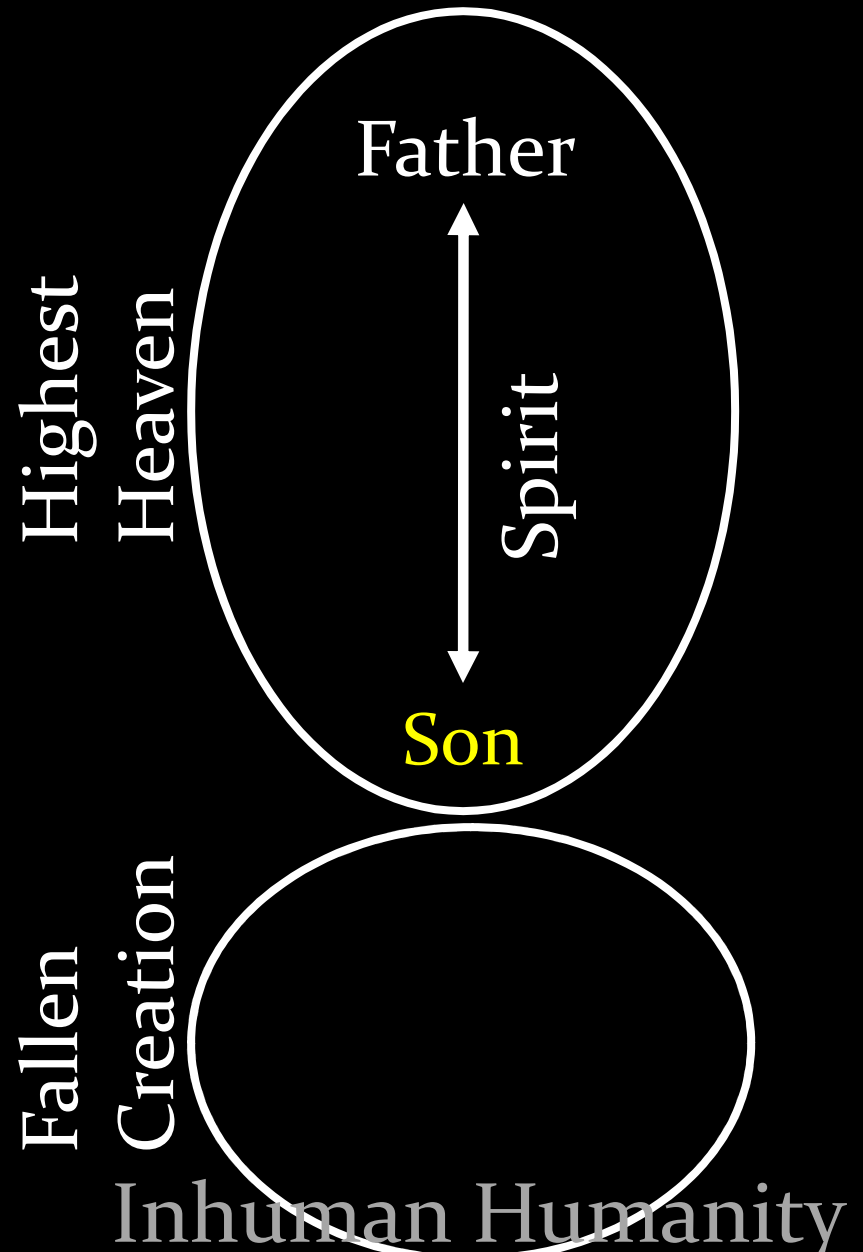


Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform



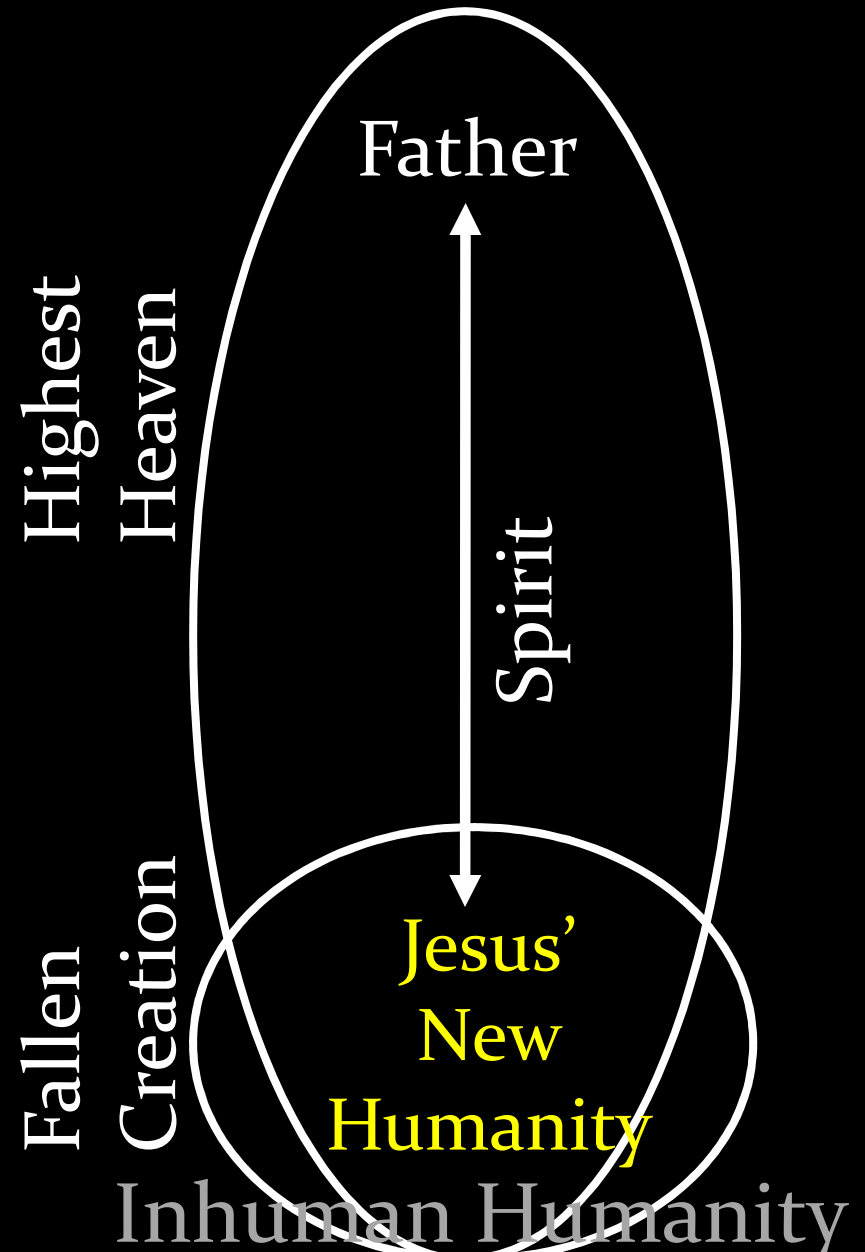
Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform

- Theologically: God's Son becomes one of us to restore human nature to the Father. He invites sinners to be restored to Himself and each other



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform

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Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform

'If we consider his fall and sin in him only, without having consideration of ourselves and of our own corruption, we shall profit nothing, for so shall we but despise our brother and flatter ourselves; but if we shall earnestly consider what nature we bear, what corruption lurketh in it, how prone and ready every one of us is to such and greater impiety, then shall we in the sin of this our brother accuse and condemn our own sins, in his fall we shall consider and lament our sinful nature, also we shall join our repentance, tears and prayers with him and his, knowing that no flesh can be justified before God's presence, if judgement proceed without mercy... Accept him and embrace him as a member of Christ's body; let no one take upon him to reproach or accuse him for any offences that before his hour he hath committed.'

(From the *Liturgy of the Church of Scotland*, 1564)

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform: New Orleans

- What are the relational incentives in the system?
‘If the city builds a larger jail, it will have to keep filling it with tens of thousands of people. If a smaller facility is built, it will change who is arrested in the city, and how long they spend behind bars.’
(Ethan Brown, New Orleans journalist)

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform: New Orleans

- What is our relation to at-risk people or criminals?
 - ‘...recreational, educational, mental health, and affordable housing facilities’ (Critical Resistance)
 - Pre-trial services, which reduced incarceration in NYC in mid-90’s (Vera Institute of Justice)

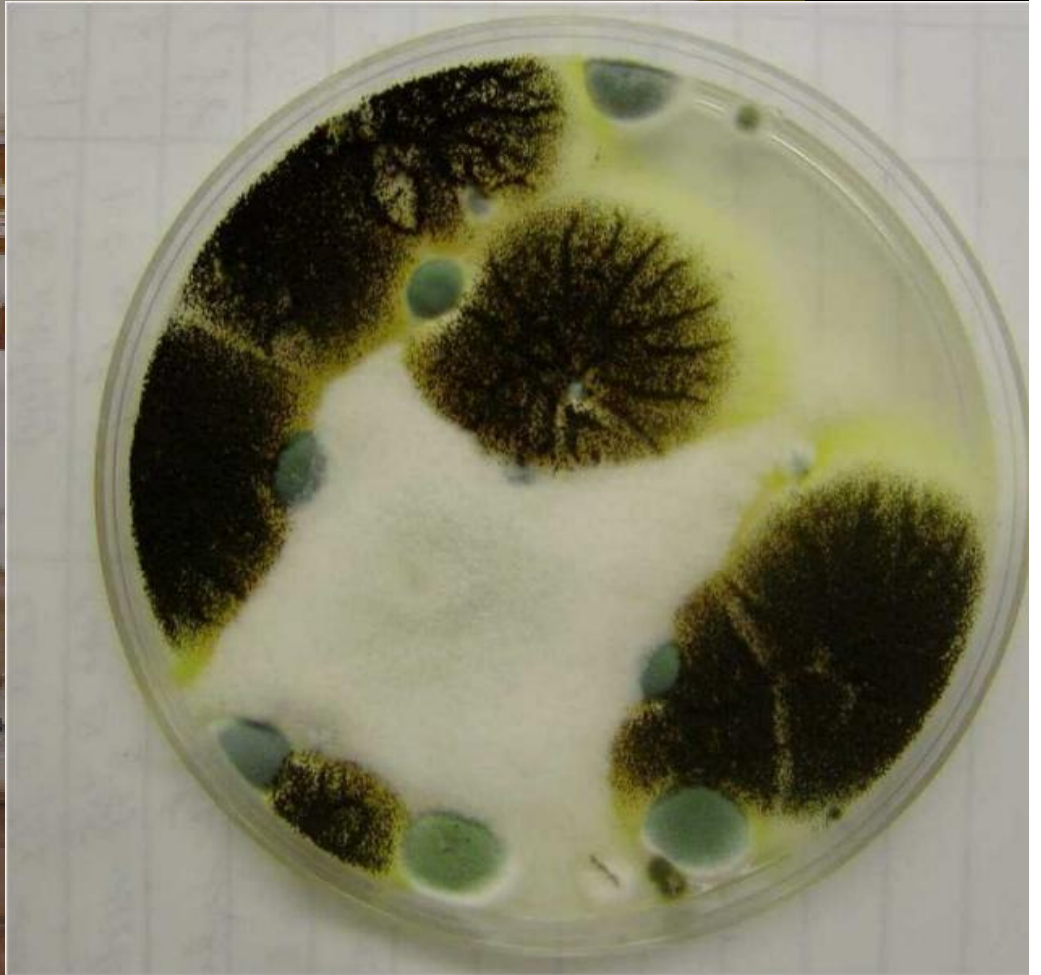
Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform: Nationally

- What is our relation to prisoners? Consider the dehumanization of prison staff, who need an answer to the question, 'Why do we punish?'
 - Take away freedom (libertarian)?
 - Punishment for the past *by the state* (meritocratic)?
 - Deter others (utilitarian)?
 - To ultimately repair the harm to *human victims* (restorative)?

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Prison Reform: Nationally

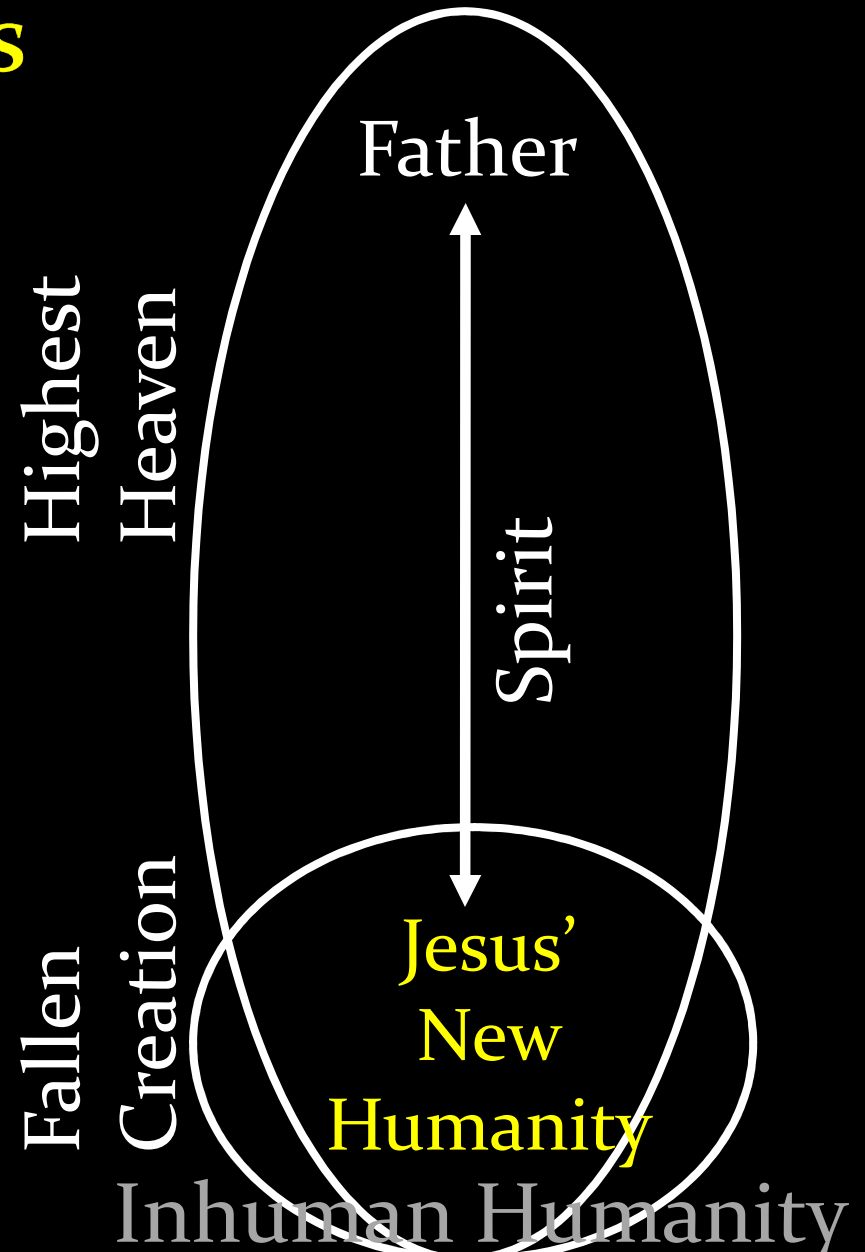
- Christian and Christian-Influenced Restorative Criminal Justice: A Partial History
 - Restitution in Biblical Israel
 - ...
 - Norway
 - U.S. Mennonite Christians
 - New Zealand (youth violence)
 - U.S. (urban youth violence)
 - South Africa (Truth and Reconciliation Commission)
 - Rwanda
 - Uganda

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Cost of Mold Illnesses



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Cost of Mold Illnesses

- Theologically: God's Son becomes one of us to restore human nature to the Father. He invites sinners to be restored to Himself and each other



Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Cost of Mold Illnesses

- Theologically: God has made us in His image, to be like Him
 - *God gave His people Israel a good inheritance*

‘To give you great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill’
(Deuteronomy 6:10 – 11, limited principle)
 - *Jesus gave his life in love for others*

‘We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?’
(1 John 3:16 – 17, universal principle)

Christian Restorative Justice Approaches: Cost of Mold Illnesses: New Orleans

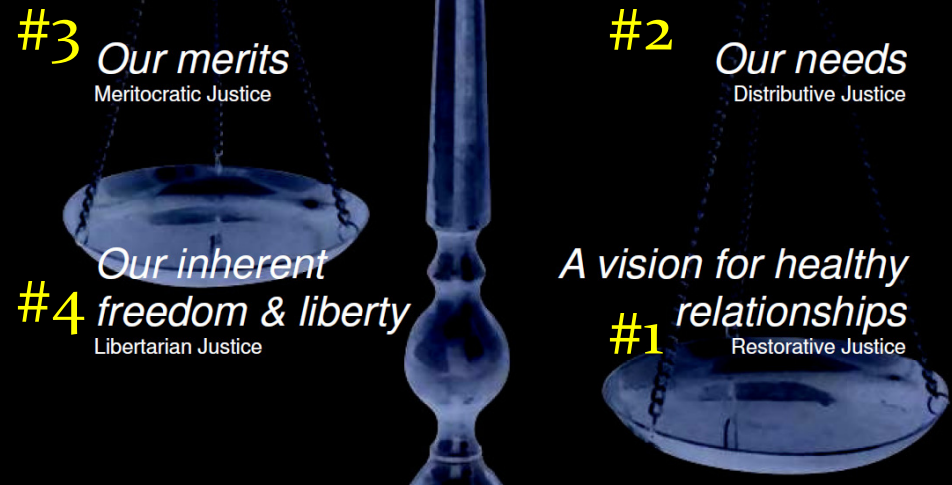
- Under the circumstances of post-Katrina New Orleans, the cost of health is a restorative and distributive justice issue
 - Negligence in building the levees by the Army Corps of Engineers, who represent 'all of us'
 - Not a function of individual deservedness (meritocratic justice) or even 'misfortune'
- Nationally, we need standards for safer buildings

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a consistent definition of justice? A foundation for it?
2. What do you think about the Christian ordering of the four types of justice? How is it hopeful? Challenging?
3. If you were to present your life to Jesus, how do you think he would speak to your:
 1. Willingness to talk about him?
 2. Patterns of friendship?
 3. Major and career direction?
 4. Lifestyle expectations?

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

Select one



The Triune God's Vision for Human Relationships

