

Character Trait for March 5-11 is Justice

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: Qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Justice: Taking responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true.

Derivation: Jus•tice *n* 1: the quality of being just 2: the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action 3: impartiality; fair representation of the facts 4: sound reason; validity

Weekly Verse: Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

Bible Story: James 2:1-12

Quote: Delay in justice is injustice.

Application:

1. **Keep a Clear Conscience**--Just as the health of the body depends upon the healthy operation of each member, a just society exists only when each member acts justly in daily decisions. This requires a clear understanding of what is right and a willingness to apply it.
2. **Take Personal Responsibility**--When you discover wrongdoing in your community, home, or workplace, your relationship to the situation will determine your specific responsibility, but your underlying dedication to moral principle must not change. Start where you are and move forward, addressing the issue within your jurisdiction and encouraging others to make a similar commitment.
3. **Use the Right Methods**--By definition, you cannot demonstrate justice by using unjust means, even if you do achieve a "just" result.
4. **Face It**--When possible, confront wrongdoers and give them opportunity to mend their ways. Do not use authorities as a means to avoid confronting your responsibility. When you see family members, work associates, or neighbors involved in wrongdoing, invest your time and energy to face the problem and correct it.
5. **Promote Reform—Not Revenge**--When correction is needed, a just person looks beyond the surface problem and identifies the underlying issue. Appeal to a person's conscience by asking, "Was that truthful?" or "Did that show self-control?" or "Was that the right thing to do?" These questions define the underlying issue and lead to a change of heart. Remember that the goal of correction is reform, not revenge.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How can you address what is wrong without meddling in areas outside your role or responsibility?
- 2) Do you take appropriate action or look the other way when you see injustice?