

What Is Right

Philippians 4:8-9, Matthew 5:6, 9:9-13, 2 Chronicles 20:5-9

Jan. 26, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. In your opinion, how would you distinguish if an action or situation is right or wrong?
2. Does being right equate with righteousness? Explain your reasoning.
3. What is the definition of justice and how is it similar to or different from righteousness?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read again Philippians 4:8-9. Why might Paul have included “whatever is right” in his list of virtues? Pastor Ryan points out that in its original context, the community as a whole would decide what was “right” - which often meant taking holistic action that considered the needs of the oppressed and marginalized. What would be the pros and cons to this understanding?
2. Negative theology is the study of what God is not rather than what God is because God is too complex and abstract for humans to understand or fully put into words. For example, rather than say, “God is good,” negative theology would say, “There is no evil in God,” and leave it at that. How might this approach be helpful when considering topics or situations where we are being asked to do the right thing?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Why was Jesus able to call a tax collector to follow Him when most people considered tax collectors traitors and sinners? If you were Matthew, the tax collector, describe the feelings you would have had when Jesus asked you to follow Him.
4. What does it mean when Pastor Ryan said to give “space to our righteousness”?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Compare and contrast taking “right” action for churches/faith communities and that of our government (state/federal)?
2. How might God’s approach to “what is right” apply when we deal with those who may disagree with us?
3. Give an example of an area of “righteousness” where you need to “give space to”.