

Love and Mercy

Exodus 22:21-27

I. The ubiquitous _____: “Widows, orphans, and foreigners”

Those _____ or vulnerable and thus in need of particular care and provision

Mercy is central to our Lord’s _____ in this world

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” [Micah 6:8]

II. The Lord is adamant about mercy

A. This goes well beyond ideology

B. This goes well beyond _____

True pity _____ on behalf of the one in needs

C. This goes well beyond “random acts of kindness”

Mercy in-forms and shapes the _____ and structure of a Godly culture

Deliberate, creative, and sustained mercy is essential to the life of faith

III. Common reasons for _____ (and neglect)

A. Cynicism born of suspicion – the “_____” poor

1. “Their need is not so extreme”

2. “I’m not going to be _____ in”

3. “It’s their own _____ – they have brought this on themselves”

a. “They are _____”

b. “They are _____”

c. They are “_____”

We are so invested in the _____ debate that we dehumanize people

4. Fear of _____

5. “They have an ungrateful spirit”

Charity becomes more about _____ than about _____ and our neighbor

B. Cynicism born of _____

Walking around the problem is convenient

Love and Mercy

Exodus 22:21-27

C. Cynicism born of _____ and self-righteousness

Those confident of their own righteousness look _____ on others [Luke 18:9]

Biblical causes of poverty

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If either of the first two are present, the third becomes much more difficult

"What do you have that you did not _____?" [First Corinthians 4:7]

IV. Biblical motivations toward charity

A. We are all _____ in the image of God [Genesis 1:26-27]

B. The _____ we have been given in Christ

V. The logic of Gospel mercy

"You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt"

[Exodus 22:21]

We are the ones _____ on the side of the road, ungrateful lawbreakers, without

hope, *"dead in our trespasses and sins"* [Ephesians 2:5]

Our only hope is for someone to come and give us what we do not _____

Jesus – the _____ – has done just that!

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" [Romans 5:8]

This liberates us to dispense mercy toward other