

A Love and justice belong together:

❖ **An inseparable tandem.**

- Love is part of God's character (1 John 4:8.) Is justice also part of His character?
- Both justice and love are the very foundation of the government of the Universe, since they are part of the character of God, and emanate from Him (Ps. 89:14 NIV.)
- This is the reason why a large part of the messages given by God to the prophets include the denunciation of unjust situations that the people had to rectify in order to be in communion with Him (Is. 1:17; Jer. 2:34-35; Ez. 18:7-9; Mic. 6:8.)

❖ **All love, all justice.**

- God doesn't just ask us to do what is right and show love. He always and at all times exemplifies these traits. God only and always does what is loving, right, and just.
- The Bible declares that God acts justly every morning (Zeph. 3:5.) God knows what is best for everyone, wants what is best for everyone, and continually works to achieve it.
- Despite having all authority and all power; despite having no one above Him who can judge His actions; despite having the right to act as He wishes; God never does anything contrary to justice. He never does anything wrong, nor does He induce anyone to do anything wrong (James 1:13; Ps. 5:4.)
- Although He always seeks justice, He never fails to be loving. So when Moses asked to see God's glory, God replied, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you [...] I will have mercy, [...] I will have compassion" (Exod. 33:18-19 NIV.)

B Loving justice requires constancy:

❖ **The immutable character of God.**

- God does not change (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.) This categorical statement must be understood to mean that God's character is unchangeable. If He is love, He always acts in love. If He is just, He always acts in justice.
- As can be seen from his conversation with Abraham about Sodom, God is willing to make changes in his actions, as long as these do not modify his own essence of love and justice (Gen. 18:26-28.)
- We find it difficult to understand God's immutability because of our tendency to change our feelings. Today we are faithful, tomorrow we are not. Today we love ardently, tomorrow we are indifferent. Today we promise to always tell the truth, tomorrow we lie shamelessly.
- God is not like that. He is always faithful (2 Tim. 2:13); always loving (Jer. 31:3); always true (Titus 1:2); immutable (Heb. 6:17.)

❖ **The perfection of divine love and justice.**

- The perfection of God's love is clearly vindicated in the act of offering his life to rescue us from sin (Rom. 5:8.) This same act also shows us the perfection of his justice (Rom. 3:25-26.)
- Unlike our love, God continues to constantly impart His perfect love even to those who do not love Him, or are not worthy of receiving His benefits (Mt. 5:45.)
- God's love exceeds any reasonable expectation, but it never nullifies or contravenes justice. He invites us to act like Him: "Hold fast to love and justice" (Hos. 12:6, ESV.)
- When God finally establishes justice in this world and, out of love, eradicates evil from the universe, every creature will praise God's perfect justice and perfect love (Rev. 15:3-4.)

C Loving justice and repentance:

❖ **God's repentance.**

- Repentance involves the concept that something has not been done well. Therefore, repentance in God is unthinkable (Num. 23:19; 1S. 15:29.)
- However, several biblical texts speak of God's repentance (E.g. Gen.6:6; 2 Sam. 24:16.)
- God does not back down from His plans for our good. That is why His promises are always trustworthy (2 Cor. 1:20.)
- Yet He is willing to repent of withdrawing His protection, and decline our punishment, in response to our repentance (Jonah 3:10; Ex. 32:14.)
- Therefore, God suspends His judgments in response to repentance precisely because His character is good, just, loving, and merciful.