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FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

Sanctity

The property of deserving dignity and respect through one's relation to God.



"Sanctity of Life Sunday"





Sanctity demands a single woven fabric of justice.



Sanctity is DEEPLY interwoven. There is no 'one thing' in justice.

This is one of the reasons people are constantly talking past each other in political and social arguments.



DISINTEREST in goodliness Worship of Jouth, Freedom, Leisure, & Beauty REJECTION of children's rights PHILOSOPHICAL PERSUASION Citis just!) REJECTION of creation mandate PROLIFERATION of divorce DISTORTIONS of pormography Economic disincentives to mouniage SEXVAL DELAYING marriage PROMISCULTY DUHONORING manhood & fatherhood 2 DISINTEREST in supporting single EXISTENTIAL mothers & discouraging single conflusion of maleness & femaleness GLOOM motherhood FAMILY court TERRIBLE parenting models injustices UN ECESSARY incarceration STRESSFUL PARENTING NO FAULT DIVORCE LOADING poor, young people CULTURE of disrespect UNHELPFUL weifare DESPAIR requiations child IDOLATIRY LOADING middle class, young people with DEBT PERFECTIONISM

Sanctity is WIDE It points to many things at once

Racial unity



Totalitarian persecution



Sanctity



Environmental stewardship



Economic vulnerability W

Sanctity is WIDE It points to many things at once

Racial unity



Totalitarian persecution



Sanctity



Environmental stewardship



ECONOMIC vulnerability (W)



The neglect of economic injustice miscarries spiritual renewal



Key Assumption:

There is a relationship between the spiritual wealth of salvation and the financial wealth in our physical lives.



Relation of spiritual and corporeal wealth

Promise to Israel Acts 2-6 Romans 15:26-27 Philemon 1:17-20 Jesus' teaching Galatians 2:9–10 2 Corinthians 8



Neglected injustice will miscarry spiritual restoration



2 problems with neglected injustice

1. It exasperates the vulnerable

2. It divides the brotherhood



Problem 1 with neglected injustice: It exasperates the vulnerable

"I can take suffering in the fight of life. What I can't take is it coming from the very people that are supposed to be in this with me."



Neh. 5:1-5

"Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.

(Exasperation)

Problem 2 with neglected injustice: It divides the brotherhood

"You can have more than me. But when it means I'm a slave, we aren't brothers."



...Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others."

This threatened the entire project.

(for everyone)





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2. Face neglected injustice; don't spiritualize it.

What were the priests doing during all this? (N)



How do you face injustice? Nehemiah Style

- 1. Feel something vs. 6
- 2. Think carefully vs. 7
- 3. Speak the truth vs. 7
- 4. Make a moral and spiritual case vs. 8
- 5. Don't over defend the oppressed vs. 10-11
- 6. Invite perpetrator *into* justice vs. 10-11
- 7. Be an example for the perpetrator vs. 10, 15
- 8. Charge spiritual leaders vs. 12
- 9. Call to the Fear of the Lord vs. 6



Application Principles Spiritual Leadership

- 1. Don't be a know it all. Think hard and carefully after you start to feel.
- 2. Have a track record of sacrificial integrity
- 3. Don't expect other spiritual leaders to do this, or encourage you.

Application Principles Economic Justice

1. Fear to Lord—what would he think of your arrangements?

2. "We are brothers"—how poor would you let someone in your family be?



Application Principles Economic Justice

3. Are you destitute?

4. Is it usury?





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