

Justice-Minded vs. “Doing” Justice

Human Trafficking

1. Human Trafficking: What is It?

- a. Modern Day Slavery: people profit from controlling and exploiting others (sex, labor, debt bondage, etc.) The terms “human trafficking” and “slavery” both refer to the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for labor, sex, or other means of profit or gain (not random unfairness).
- b. There are more slaves today than any other time in history. Over 40 million people are owned by slave masters who use violence and lies to trap the vulnerable, taking away their freedom.
- c. Minors in this realm are *always* considered human trafficking victims.
- d. Human Trafficking, the industry of selling human beings, is the 2nd largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. The newest estimate says profits exceed \$150 billion, with about \$99 billion coming from the sex trafficking industry alone.
- e. People are viewed as reusable and re-sellable. Owning humans is incredibly profitable because they can be sold over and over until they are simply discarded.
- f. According to the Dept. of Justice, human trafficking has occurred in every state. CA is #1. Of the top 10 cities, 3 are in CA: San Diego, San Francisco, and LA.
- g. Slavery has many faces (see CNN’s *Freedom Project* or Movie *Nefarious*).

2. God’s Heart of Justice: What Does God Think?

- a. He is a God of justice—it’s who He is. (Isaiah 61:1)
- b. Justice minded vs. *doing* justice.
- c. Justice means setting things right.
- d. Know Him, Know His Word, Know His character.
- e. Compassion, sympathy, empathy
- f. Micah 6:8; Amos 5:24, Isaiah 58, Psalm 146:7-9, Ezekiel 18:5-9, Zech 7:9-10, Deut. 10:17-18, Psalm 99:4, Psalm 68:4-5, Luke 10:25-37, Matthew 25:31-40, Luke 4:17-18

3. Reflecting the Character of God: What Should We Do?

- a. What we do is a response to the nature and character of God, not about us.
- b. Our passion for the needs in the world must be grounded in the reality of who God is and what God’s vision for justice is and always has been.
- c. Remember the battle belongs to the Lord!
- d. Being like Christ—we have to *know* Him to be *like* Him (just, merciful, holy, etc.).
- e. “The God who is love calls the people of God to love. The same God who is just calls the same people to do justice. To extract or to separate love and justice from the character of God would be impossible, just as it should mean those qualities in action are inextricable from God’s people. The body of Christ is meant to be the enactment of God’s life in the world. Jesus says the evidence will be measured by whether we actually

live our calling. It's not whether our lips say amen, but whether our lives do." - Mark Labberton.

- f. "Lives centered in the love and justice of God will make room for the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the slave. **Justice is what love looks like in public.**"
- g. "The two greatest commandments identified by Jesus, to love God and to love your neighbor, are the flip side of the two most prevalent sins throughout Scripture: idolatry and injustice. Failing to love God leads to idolatry, while failing to love others leads to injustice."
- h. Live as saints, not heroes: Hero does not occur in the NT, but saint does 64 times.
- i. Wear "justice" as a turban (Job 29:14)

How Can I Make a Difference?

Be a voice, be a resource, be an advocate, be a volunteer.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

-Desmond TuTu

Be a Voice

- Why? Because it's right. (Isaiah 61:8, Proverbs 3:8-9)
- "This is the greatest human rights challenge of our time."
- Identify your gifts, talents, and resources.
- Decide what you're willing to invest.
- Educate yourself and know the truth. (1-888-3737-888) Brings light to the issue and makes it known. Learn the indicators, know the hotline number, know what to do if you see something, learn how they are targeting youth, learn how to be a responsible consumer. Go to responsiblesourcingtool.org.
- Dept. of Labor: list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor: www.dd.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods
- Educate others by sharing the truth.
- Be aware, be smart, be alert, be responsible, be a friend, be preventative, be ready, be the change!
- Understand the power of awareness, the resources of rescue, and the reality of restoration.

Spread the Word

- Show films and host a panel afterwards for questions (home, neighborhood, work).
- Sell items made by survivors for education, awareness, and support.
- Start a justice-based book club.
- Start a campus club. Encourage local schools to include trafficking curriculum.
- Attend and help host conferences.

- Use your platform to include awareness at established events.
- Days of Action-Poster Campaign
- Talk about WRAP Week (white ribbon against porn).
- Give opportunities for many organizations to share about what they do to help.
- Post about it on social media.
- Be an ethical consumer by buying fair trade goods and gifts. Fair Trade events: www.fairtradeusa.org; Free2Work, www.slaveryfootprint.org
- Educate yourself and others about internet safety.
- Tactfully talk about it whenever the moment arises.

Be an Advocate

- Write to your senators and political representatives.
- Learn about the trafficking campaigns and specific laws and support them.
- Read Shared Hope International (sharedhope.org) to see how your state is graded in addressing HT issues.
- Listen to congressional and State Dept. hearings on domestic and international trafficking.
- Listen to the [EndingHumanTrafficking.org/org/podcast](http://endinghumantrafficking.org/org/podcast) (Dr. Sandra Morgan. Podcast interview with John Cotton Richmond: endinghumantrafficking.org/podcast/267).

Be a Volunteer

- Pray!
- Rally Resources: Who do you know? Work together with others.
- Help local groups: find out what is needed and volunteer to help.
- Connect people you know to help fill the needs of local groups.
- Babysit for survivors.
- Doctors, lawyers, tattoo removal, therapists, translators, commonly needed.
- Help write resumes, conduct practice interviews, teach job skills.
- Be a mentor to a survivor.
- Help host or contribute to celebrations.
- Donate clothes or other needed supplies.
- Furnish homes, transitional, safehouse, etc.
- Help with their activities, fundraisers, etc.
- Dignity bags, toiletry drives, Amazon wish lists, etc.
- Christmas wish lists, catalogs, etc.
- “Adopt” a girl/boy in a country where trafficking is prevalent.
- Host a garage sale and donate proceeds.
- Buy an extra gift card and pass it on to police, anti-trafficking organizations, etc.
- Are you a business owner? Offer job opportunities, shadowing, interning, training. Donate one day’s profits to an organization.

- Host a fix-it day or work party: repair a kitchen, bathroom, roof, etc.
- Organize fund raisers like 5k's, pancake breakfasts, etc.
- Practical financial help: School fees, books, computers, pay tickets, etc.
- Donate school desks and supplies, etc.
- Preventative actions include adopting, becoming a foster parent, working with Strong Families.
- Collect recyclables and donate proceeds to an organization.
- Support local law enforcement.
- Mentor a youth in juvenal hall, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, or as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Use your talents and donate your time and services: writer, artist, videographer, web design, musician, cook, photographer, graphic designer, computer skills, yoga, fitness, painting, etc.
- Support International Organizations: raise awareness, support financially, take a volunteer service trip, etc.

Don't be afraid to think outside the box – what are your gifts, your talents, your resources?

Raise awareness, raise money, and raise **HOPE!** We can all donate **COMPASSION** and **AWARENESS** to the fight!

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”

Martin Luther King Jr.