

Character Trait February 25 to March 1 is Justice

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Justice: Taking responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true.

Derivation: In its earliest uses, the Latin word *jus* was a religious term. It referred to a "sacred formula" or a religious "instruction." In later Latin literature, *jus* referred to anything "binding" or "right."

Weekly Verse: Psalm 106:3 "Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right."

Bible Story: Jesus evicts the moneychangers from the temple (Matthew 21:12-17)

Quote: Seek Justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your God.

Application:

When many people think of justice, they think of law or politics. However, justice goes beyond the courtroom or legislature and encompasses daily life at work, at home, and in our communities.

Justice is a necessary ingredient to having a peaceful and productive society where citizens can enjoy personal freedom and liberty under the full protection of the law. When the justice system breaks down—when abuse and corruption run rampant—the resulting chaos and fear leads to more abuse.

It is often easier to avoid dealing with injustice than to face a complicated situation, particularly when you might be in the wrong. It's tempting to say, "It's someone else's problem," or "It really isn't that bad," or "I'm sure it will eventually stop." But remember, corruption grows wild in the shade. Eventually, someone has to expose injustice in order to stop it.

Discussion Questions:

Why is justice your responsibility?

When should you have authorities address a problem, and when should you address it yourself?