

**Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline August 16, 2015 (John Robertson)**  
**Fruitfulness on the Frontline**  
**Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice**

How is it that in everyday life we can stand for truth and justice in a way that brings about responsible and effective action in the world – actions that are pleasing to God and meaningful to those who are hurting?

**God Hates Lies** – Nahum 3:1 (NIV)

**God Loves Truth** – Psalm 15:1-3 (NIV)

**God Hates the Exploitation of the Poor** – Amos 2:6-7 (NIV)

**God Loves Generosity and Justice** – Amos 5:24 (NIV)

The Bible is uncomfortably clear. God hates lies and injustice because He loves the victims of these things so much and is intensely and personally present in their suffering and their need (Psalm 12:5).

We serve a God of moral clarity - He doesn't respond to injustice with indifference or mild interest; He responds with strength and with action.

God's righteousness (the wrath of God) + God's compassion (His heart for the oppressed) = action to rescue and stand up for the oppressed. (Psalm 35:10)

The sin of injustice is defined in the Bible as the abuse of power – abusing power by taking from others the good things that God intended for them like their liberty, dignity, their life or the fruits of their labour or love.

We have been rescued out of darkness so that we can be the light of the world to stand against lies and injustice (Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8).

In such a society, if we are to fulfil our calling as agents of transformation, there are things to be done and things to be said.

Why is it then that many of us find it hard to do this and we settle for so little when we have been called to such grand things? Perhaps there are three basic reasons.

***Ignorance***

***Despair***

***Fear***

Speaking out about truth and justice requires wisdom, courage and a right motivation – grace.

## **A Biblical Example – 2 Samuel 12:1-10**

- When God sends Nathan to confront David, God isn't doing it to condemn David; He's doing it to liberate him from his guilt, to communicate the consequences of what he has done and to restore their relationship.
- When Nathan speaks up, it opens up a better future for David. The truth sets David free.

When we are a mouthpiece for truth and justice, our goal is not to win the argument or beat the other person; our goal is the well-being of others to the glory of God.

The biblical concept of justice is not just about impartial legal judgments; it is about right living and fair dealings.

Speaking and working for justice embraces a commitment to seek to support all that is righteous and to oppose all that is not – for the sake of others, to the glory of God.

In being a mouthpiece for truth and justice you're going to need:

**Wisdom** – Take God up on His offer to give you wisdom.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5 (NIV)*

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5 (NIV)*

**Grace** – To hear something seasoned with salt is more palatable when there’s been a full plate of grace.

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6 (NIV)*

**Courage** – Do we want to be brave or safe?

*Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:13-14; 17 (ESV)*

***This Time Tomorrow***

1. In what ways do you see injustice being carried out on your frontline?

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2. Ask God to show you how you can stand against these things with wisdom, grace and courage.

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