

Key Problems with the McLean Bible Church Draft Discipleship Resource
“The Gospel, The Church, Justice, and Race”

The Resource Contains a Novel, Fundamentally Flawed Definition of Justice.

- The meaning of justice is to render to each person that which is due to him.
- This is the consistent understanding of justice throughout Western civilization from the ancient Greeks and Roman philosophers, to medieval Christian thinkers, up until the present day, and it is the foundation of the laws and institutions of the United States.
- Justice is not “that which is right for all people” as set forth in the Draft Discipleship Resource (“the Resource”). Justice involves assessing the specific actions of specific persons as they affect other specific persons. Justice is not about lumping people together as amorphous groups and making sweeping generalizations about them.

The Resource Fails to State Elements that Are Essential to a Claim of Injustice.

- In order to make a valid claim that a person has acted unjustly, one must clearly state that a person violated a legal or moral duty that he owed to another person (substance), and to provide appropriate factual evidence logically supporting this claim (process).
- The Resource fails to clearly identify who has allegedly acted unjustly as it refers generally to “systems and structures” rather than specific, named persons, whether natural persons or other legal persons such as businesses or governments.
- The Resource fails to identify clear legal or moral duties that are owed. For example, the list of purported injustices includes “unfair creation and execution of laws” and “suppression of the marginalized”, which could mean anything.
- The Resource fails to provide any evidence for its claims. There are no citations to any source or authority to justify or explain any claims regarding historical or present-day events or claims that touch upon such areas as law, politics, economy, and society.

The Resource Is Based on Social Justice, Critical Race Theory, and Cultural Marxism.

- Such theories assume that differences in circumstances among different groups are disparities between a supposed oppressor group and a supposedly oppressed group. Such differences are said to be the result of systemic injustice, e.g., systemic racism, without a proper consideration of reasonable, alternative hypotheses to explain these circumstances.
- Only rigorous adherence to the definition and essential elements of justice, as summarized above, can protect against the making of flawed claims involving justice.
- In fact, these flawed claims produce injustice (e.g., false accusations), exacerbate social tensions, and create division with the church.