

SHOWING FAIRNESS

Building My Life on Values That Last
Rick Warren

LIFE IS UNFAIR . . .

CRIMINALS GO UNPUNISHED

"Throughout the earth justice is giving way to crime, and even the police courts are corrupt." Ecclesiastes 3:16 (TLB)

"When crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong."
Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NLT)

THE OPPRESSED ARE UNHELPED

"I looked again at all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying, and no one would help them . . . their oppressors had power."
Ecclesiastes 4:1 (GNT)

POLITICIANS ARE UNETHICAL

"If you see . . . miscarriage of justice anywhere throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up . . . so the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy." Ecclesiastes 5:8 (TLB)

"Here is an injustice . . . Stupid people are given positions of authority."
Ecclesiastes 10:5-6 (GNT)

GOOD PEOPLE GO UNREWARDED

"Righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve." Ecclesiastes 8:14 (GW)

CAPABLE PEOPLE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL

"In this world fast runners do not always win the races . . . wise do not always earn a living, intelligent people do not always get rich, and capable people do not always rise to high positions." Ecclesiastes 9:11 (GNT)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW UNFAIRNESS?

1. BECAUSE HE GIVES US _____

"I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse."
Deuteronomy 11:26 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO _____

"In due season God will judge everything man does." Ecclesiastes 3:17 (TLB)

3. BECAUSE IT SHOWS _____

"God is letting the world go on its sinful way so he can test mankind, and so that men themselves will see that they are no better than beasts."
Ecclesiastes 3:18 (TLB)

4. BECAUSE _____

"Endurance produces character." Romans 5:4 (ESV)

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO UNFAIRNESS?

1. ACCEPT _____

"Do not be surprised at the terrible trouble which now comes to test you. Do not think that something strange is happening to you. But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be happy and full of joy when Christ comes again in glory." 1 Peter 4:13 (NCV)

2. RESPOND _____

"Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."
Matthew 5:43-44 (PHILLIPS)

"Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors." Jeremiah 22:3 (NLT)

"The Lord demands fairness in every business deal." Proverbs 16:17 (TLB)

3. WAIT _____

"A person might have to suffer even when it is unfair, but if he thinks of God and can stand the pain, God is pleased." 1 Peter 2:19 (NCV)

"If you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you." 1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)

"These little troubles . . . are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward out of all proportion to our pain." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (PHILLIPS)