

19. Does God cause people to sin?

*Habakkuk 1:13 —*

*1 John 1:5 —*

*James 1:13 —*

20. How does the realization that you have been chosen by God encourage and humble you?

21. Why do the doctrines of God's sovereignty and election make so many people uncomfortable?

22. How can we pray for each other this week?

#### **Quotes to Ponder**

*Paul's way of defending God's justice is to proclaim His mercy. It sounds like a complete non sequitur. But it is not. It simply indicates that the question itself is misconceived, because the basis on which God deals savingly with sinners is not justice but mercy.*

John Stott

*The world fell into sin, but God put a limit, a restraint upon it, and this world would be complete chaos and hell if He did not do so. But the moment He draws back His restraining influence there is hardening ... So that is one of the ways in which God produces hardening ... He leaves them to themselves.*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*God hardens those He wants to harden. And all those whom He hardens want to be hardened.*

Timothy Keller

*No one can shake his fist at God justly, yet plenty do, saying, "That's not fair. You have given me a bad deal." No sinner has the right to say with impunity, "God, You owe me grace." If grace is owed, it is not grace. The very essence of grace is its voluntary character. God reserves to Himself the sovereign, absolute right to give grace to some and withhold that grace from others.*

R. C. Sproul



Message #64: Is God Fair?

August 23, 2015

## **Sermon** *Notes*

**1. God is Sovereign in Giving Mercy (15-16)**

**2. God is Sovereign in Withholding Mercy (17-18)**

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Confused you?
2. Why does Paul raise the question of God being unjust (*Romans 9:14*)?
3. Why would anyone accuse God of being unjust, unfair, or unrighteous?
4. Is there non-justice in God? Explain.
5. What do these verses teach us about our God?
 

<i>Psalm 7:9</i> —	<i>Psalm 119:137</i> —
<i>Psalm 48:10</i> —	<i>Psalm 119:142</i> —
<i>Psalm 71:19</i> —	<i>Psalm 145:8</i> —
<i>Psalm 116:5</i> —	<i>Jeremiah 9:23-24</i> —
6. Does God's love demand that He save everyone? Explain.
7. Is God unjust in saving some and not saving others? Explain.
8. How would you answer someone who accused God of being arbitrary in His choice of some and rejection of others?
 

<i>Exodus 4:21</i> —	<i>Exodus 9:7</i> —
<i>Exodus 7:3</i> —	<i>Exodus 10:1</i> —
<i>Exodus 8:15-19</i> —	
9. When have you questioned God's justice? What was faulty about your thought process?
10. If God treated us justly or fairly, what would happen?
11. How has God shown His mercy and compassion to you in your salvation and sanctification (*Romans 9:15-16*)?
12. Read *Romans 3:19-24*. Does anyone have a right to be chosen by God or receive His mercy? Why or why not?
13. What does God extending mercy depend on (*Romans 9:16*)? What factors do not affect His choice?
14. How does *Romans 9:17-18* portray God's sovereignty?
15. Why did God raise up Pharaoh (*Romans 9:17*)?
16. Why do you think that God's desire for His glory is such a difficult concept for many believers?
17. Who hardened Pharaoh's heart according to these verses?
 

<i>Exodus 4:21</i> —	<i>Exodus 9:7</i> —
<i>Exodus 7:3</i> —	<i>Exodus 10:1</i> —
<i>Exodus 8:15-19</i> —	
18. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart (*Romans 9:17*)?