

Exposing Enemies Within the Church: A 7-Session Bible Study Series  
Session 1: Social Justice Versus Biblical Justice, Part 1

Note: This one-page teaching plan is a summary; a leader's preparation should include studying all the material provided.

**Bringing the session into focus:** What is the primary goal of the social justice movement, how do its advocates desire to accomplish that goal, and how do their desires and intentions align with Scripture, if at all? This session shines the spotlight of God's Word on a major objective (if not *the* primary aim) of the social justice movement. Visit <https://www.discoverbedrocktruth.org/00s1-resources-ewtcbs/> to access special resources for Session 1.

1. **Social justice: described and defined.** Social justice is described in terms of its key element: *redistribution of wealth and resources to achieve "equality," because inequality (or unequal outcomes) is considered to be unjust.*
2. This makes **property rights a key issue** when one considers and evaluates social justice. **Key question:** Is it wrong to own wealth and resources that exceed in quantity and value the wealth and resources belonging to others? What does the Bible say?
3. **Clarification:** The Bible condemns materialism. Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." At the same time, the Bible also condemns laziness. And it *commends* hard work, earning wealth, enjoying the fruit of one's own labor, and using wealth and other resources wisely and for God's glory. **(Between session 1 and 2 in the Debriefing for Session 1, participants will be encouraged to interact with the information in Item 1.1.** The resource is titled "The Bible Assumes and Actively Affirms Private Property and Private Property Rights.") Meanwhile, during this session, you'll guide the members of your group in discussing a few of the verses mentioned in this resource.
4. We must understand that the threat against individual property ownership and property rights represents **a push for the implementation of socialism.**
5. Use **Item 1.2** to examine and discuss with your group what Exodus 20:15, Exodus 20:17, Matthew 20:15, and Ephesians 4:28 say about property and property rights.
6. **What does the Bible say about justice?** Dr. Calvin Beisner has studied this topic thoroughly and states that we uphold biblical justice when we render "impartially and proportionally to everyone his due in accord with the righteous standard of God's moral law." Use **Item 1.3** in your discussion of what the Scriptures say about justice. Note that it has 2 pages.
7. **Do not be fooled.** The push for socialism is real. The World Economic Forum is telling us that in 2030 we'll own nothing and (still) be happy. Karl Marx understood that socialism and communism are economic systems structured on the foundation of the elimination of individual property rights. Also, in a socialistic system, because government controls everything, government becomes god, so the real God is rejected. See the quotations from Marx highlighted in the more detailed teaching plan for Session 1.
8. **Ask and discuss: If I have something and someone else doesn't have something similar, or even if I have two of something that someone else doesn't have, is the person who doesn't have it entitled to take what I have simply because he or she doesn't have it, even if the individual can make a good case that he or she needs it?** Does the government have the right to take what I have and give it to someone else to achieve equality (an equal outcome), in the name of justice? How difficult would it be to achieve a truly equal outcome — between 2, 16, 300, or the people in an entire community or a nation?
9. **The social justice narrative says yes,** those who don't have are entitled to the "excess" resources of others to achieve equality. **Biblical justice asks, "What does the individual deserve?" or "What is he or she due?"** Note that justice, according to Scripture, does not rule out mercy or charity, but mercy is not justice, and neither is charity. For one thing, charity is voluntary, not coerced.
10. In light of **2 Thessalonians 3:10**, discuss the questions in item 8 above. Use the two paragraphs in **Item 1.4** to summarize key differences between social justice and justice as presented in Scripture. Note that during the next Bible study session, you'll continue to contrast the two.