

Key Quotes for the Session on Biblical Justice

Historian Verna Hall's definition of civil government – *Civil government is not an entity in the sense of being an individual capable of producing goods and services. Rather, civil government is the flow of power and force in society. The structure or form of civil government, to legislative, judicial and executive, is only the means by which power and force operate. Of primary concern to the American Christian is the understanding of the source and quality of this power and force, and how civil government is to be used so as not to negate Biblical precepts and principles.* – Hall, Verna, The Christian History of the American Revolution: Consider and Ponder, Foundation for American Christian Education, 1976, page xxvi.

Justice redefined, Scott Allen – *The tearing down of traditional structure and systems deemed to be oppressive, and the redistribution of power and resources from oppressors to victims in pursuit of equality of outcomes.* – Allen, Scott David, Why Social Justice is not Biblical Justice, Credo House Publishers, 2020, page 43.

Frederick Hayek on social justice – *The classical demand is that the state ought to treat all people equally in spite of the fact that that they are very unequal. You can't deduce from this that because people are unequal you ought to treat them unequally in order to make them equal. And that's what social justice amounts to... to make people equal a goal of government policy would force government to treat people very unequally indeed... I have come to feel strongly, that the greatest service I can still render to my fellow men, that I could make the speakers and writers among them thoroughly ashamed ever again to employ the term social justice.* – <https://fee.org/articles/hayek-social-justice-demands-the-unequal-treatment-of-individuals/>

Andrew Sullivan, essayist, writes – *For many, especially the young, discovering a new meaning (for life)... is thrilling. Social justice ideology does everything a religion should. It offers an account of the whole; that human life and society... must be seen entirely as a function of social power structures, in which various groups have spent all human existence oppressing other groups, and it provides a set of principles to resist and reverse this interlocking web of oppression.* As quoted in Allen, Why Social Justice is not Biblical Justice, page 50.

N. T. Wright has written – *The great emphasis in the New Testament is that the gospel is not how to escape the world; the gospel is that the crucified and risen Jesus is Lord of the world.* As quoted in Allen, page 184.