



## Why the Church is Called to Fight Human Trafficking

God's heart is for justice. We learn throughout the Bible that God pursues justice, executes justice, even that ALL of God's ways are just.

- **Deuteronomy 16:20 ESV** – Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- **Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV** – The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- **Psalms 9:7-8 ESV** – But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness. The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- **Psalms 33:5 ESV** – He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- **Isaiah 61:8 ESV** – For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- **Jeremiah 9:24 ESV** – But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.
- **Romans 9:14 ESV** – What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!

Not only is the LORD's heart for justice, but He works out his justice for those who are oppressed. We learn through the scriptures about His heart for the fatherless, the widow, the captives, the poor, the brokenhearted, and the prisoners. These were the people who were the most vulnerable. Who are the people we are called to serve and to fight for in modern society?

### The Alien

- **Deuteronomy 10:18 ESV** – He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

### The Oppressed

- **Psalms 103:6 ESV** – The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
- **Psalms 146:5-7 ESV** – Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

- **Isaiah 58:6-7 ESV** – Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- **Hebrews 13:3 ESV** – Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

#### *The Fatherless*

- **Isaiah 1:17 ESV** – Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.
- **Isaiah 10:1-2 ESV** – Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!
- **Psalms 10:17-18 ESV** – O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

#### *The Victim*

- **Isaiah 61:1 ESV** – The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

#### *The Widow*

- **Proverbs 15:25 ESV** – The Lord tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries.
- **James 1:27 ESV** – Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Throughout the Bible, God's heart has been for justice and for the freedom of His people. The ultimate freedom fighter, however, is Jesus, who came to free us once and for all from our sins that keep us in bondage. He came as the true fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1 – the anointed one to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prison to those who are bound. Human trafficking is physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological bondage. If we are to follow the example of Christ Jesus, who came to earth from heaven in order to die on a cross, we are to lay down our lives to fight for the freedom of others who have not yet been set free. How is it that we have been set free? What is it about freedom that made it worth it for Christ to lay down his life for it? How should we respond?

- **Matthew 12:16-21 ESV** – '[Jesus] ordered them not to make Him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.'
- **Matthew 25:35-36, 40 ESV** – 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was

sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me...'... And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

- **Luke 4:18 ESV** – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed . . .
- **John 8:34-36 ESV** – Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'
- **John 10:10 ESV** – The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- **Galatians 5:1 ESV** – For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
- **Micah 6:8 ESV** – He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?