

“Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...”

[Deuteronomy 16:20](#)

“...And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” [Micah 6:8](#) This is a fundamental responsibility of each of us before God and before our fellow man. It does not say “obey the laws of man” because man’s laws can be unjust. Apartheid, slavery and colonialism were all “legal”, but in many ways unjust. Just because it is law does not make it just, and also just laws can be twisted to unjust ends.

“...for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. [2 Cor 3:6](#) Jesus severely condemned the Pharisees because they followed God’s Laws to the letter, but violated the spirit: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: **justice and mercy and faithfulness**; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”

[Matt 23:23](#)

God has created within each person the innate knowledge of justice: “For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law ... they show the work of the Law written in their hearts...”

[Rom 2:14-15](#)

This is borne out by a story told to me in Latin America. A drug lord caught an “em-

ployee” stealing from him, and shot him dead on the spot. Though the drug lord lived by what he could get away with, this showed that he knew in his heart that stealing was not just.

The Bible never tells us to obey government, but rather tells us to **submit** to it: “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” [Rom 13:1](#) Submission implies that we cooperate as much as possible, but obeying God is above obeying man. So, we must not obey governmental commands or laws contrary to God’s Law. “But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” [Acts 5:29](#)

So, **the basic responsibility of government and the police** is to ensure justice. However I observe that justice tends to be overlooked nowadays and in its place is often a rigid “enforce the law.” This may be easier than following justice.

How might this apply to **jury duty** where carrying out justice may be placed in your hands. The founders of our form of government knew how easily evil men could infiltrate, and instituted the right to trial by jury. Undoubtedly, a jury of peers is less likely to be corrupted than government officials.

So the basic responsibility of a jury is to ensure justice, like for all of us.

That may mean declaring the accused innocent if it cannot be shown that he had any intention of committing a crime and no harm was done, even though he may have violated the letter of the law. Furthermore, no matter the evidence, if a jury believes a law is unjust, it is permitted to nullify the law in a particular case rather than finding someone guilty. This a jury’s way of saying, “By the letter of the law, the defendant is guilty, but we disagree with that law, so we vote to not punish the accused.”¹ In other words, the jurors have the right to take upon themselves to “judge both the facts and law” in the particular case. Early in our republic, these principles were well known and practiced, but now there is considerable opposition to them by the legal system, with efforts to hide them.

In Idaho² there was a case where “Before the jury was dismissed to enter into deliberations at the conclusion of his trial, Judge Lynn Winmill instructed the jury, believe it or not, to disregard every bit of information from 1980 to 2002, including the Corps’ denial of jurisdiction and the mandate from local government for Mr. Moses to maintain the flood channel.” Since the jury obeyed the judge, guilty was the only possibility, so in effect the judge decided the verdict, and so of what use was the jury except to rubber stamp her decision. This certainly is not what the founders of our republic had in

mind and if the jury had been aware of these principles, they should have ignored the judge's instructions and decided on the side of justice. As it stands, a great injustice was committed against an apparently innocent and honorable man who acted in good faith.

Another case where knowledge of these principles could have resulted in a decision for justice was the Waco Siege trial in San Antonio, Texas³. Government witnesses were caught in multiple lies. The jurors apparently did not think that the defendants had done much or anything wrong, but apparently to please the judge a little, they ruled guilty on minor counts. But that was all the judge needed to give a very severe sentence. If the jury had been aware of these principles they probably would have decided differently. Furthermore, if I am ever a juror and government witnesses lie in any material manner, for me it will be an almost automatic not guilty. If they have to lie to make their case, then at best their case can not be very substantial, and at worst could be completely fabricated. And furthermore, government witnesses will never be held accountable for their criminal lying.

Egregious cases like these are probably not so common, but jurors should be alert to such abuses.

Many times the Bible God exhorts us to speak the truth: "*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with*

his neighbor..." [Eph 4:25](#) and "*A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who tells lies will not escape.*" [Prov 19:5](#) If it is a sin to bear false witness against someone else, it is equally wrong to bear false witness against one's self?

If you are ever accused of a crime, it is likely you will be offered a "plea bargain", where you are offered a more lenient sentence in exchange for confessing to a lesser crime. If in your heart you know that you are guilty of everything they ask you to confess to, you probably should accept their offer. But if not, you must uncompromisingly obey and trust God, and not bear false witness against yourself. If you accept a plea bargain, then they have no more work to prove their case, and it will be almost impossible for you to appeal. Remember that they can lie and trick you as they please, but Martha Stewart⁴ learned the hard way that it is a prosecutable crime to lie to them. They well might not have the evidence against you that they claim they do, and prosecutors tend to want as many convictions as possible to look good in the next election.

The **Salvation of your eternal soul** is personal between you and God and does not depend on rites, traditions, human effort or belonging to any church or religion: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works...*" [Eph 2:8-9](#) No

matter what kind of person you are or what you have done: "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" [1 John 1:9](#) Pray now to put your faith in Jesus Christ alone: "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" [John 3:16](#) Then study the Bible to live pleasing to God: "*...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*" [2 Cor 5:17](#)

Please pray like this with all sincerity: "Dear Lord Jesus, I confess I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died to forgive my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Please guide my life and help me to do your will. In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

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1 truth-out.org/opinion/item/23929-jury-nullification-why-every-american-needs-to-learn-this-ta-boo-verdict

2 renewamerica.com/columns/fischer/080801

3 carolmoore.net/waco/waco-trial.html

4 money.cnn.com/2004/03/05/news/companies/martha_verdict/