

steadfast and is not swayed by bias. Deuteronomy 32:4 affirms, “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.” This consistency is a rock-solid comfort in an unpredictable world, where relationships can swing from affection to criticism without warning.

God’s justice extends to his role as judge. Psalm 9:7-8 states, “The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity.” We, however, judge hypocritically; we are harsh on others’ actions but lenient on our own intentions, pleading “I didn’t mean to.” Yet God judges with true equity, as Nahum 1:3 assures: “The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.” This slowness to anger counters our misconceptions of a quick-tempered deity, while promising that injustice won’t go unchecked provides solace amid worldly corruption. Still, God’s hatred of sin (Psalm 11:5) underscores his holiness.

But justice alone isn’t the full picture. Its divine counterpart is mercy, forming borders that keep our understanding balanced. Psalm 103:8-10 reveals, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.” Who among us would demand justice for our own failings? Instead, we echo the

tax collector in Luke 18:13, crying, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner,” and find justification through humility. Justification declares us righteous in Christ, as if our sins are fully covered and atoned for (Romans 4:7-8; 5:1) which is a forensic declaration where God remembers our sins no more in terms of condemnation (Hebrews 8:12). Micah 7:18-19 exults, “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression?... You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.”

God doesn’t forgive begrudgingly; he delights in it, casting our sins into the sea’s depths. Lamentations 3:22-23 adds, “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Justice and mercy aren’t at odds, but intertwined in God’s nature—his justice demands payment for sin, yet his mercy provides it through Christ (Romans 3:25-26).

Without mercy, justice crushes us; without justice, mercy cheapens grace. A vivid illustration unfolds in John 8:1-11, where a woman caught in adultery faces stoning under the law’s justice. Jesus upholds justice by challenging the accusers (“Let him who is without sin cast the first stone”) while extending mercy (“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”). Here, divine tension resolves not by compromise but by fulfilment in Christ.

*Editor’s note: This has been cut due to space, please search for this story on DisciplesToday.org for the entire article.*



# Divine Tension: Embracing the Fullness of God’s Truth (Part 1B)

December 15, 2025 • Justin Renton – Johannesburg, South Africa

## Key examples of Biblical tensions

From last week, consider additional biblical examples to illustrate this universality.

- **Love and truth:** As Psalm 85:10 poetically unites them: “Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.” Love without truth becomes sentimental indulgence, while truth without love turns harsh and judgmental.
  - **Sovereignty of God and human free will:** God’s predestined plans (Ephesians 1:11) coexist with our responsibility to choose (Deuteronomy 30:19). While different Christian traditions vary in emphasis, such as Calvinism leaning toward sovereignty and Arminianism toward choice, Scripture holds both in tension as a divine mystery, guarding against fatalism on one hand and self-reliance on the other (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9, God’s ways are higher than ours).
  - **Predestination and evangelism:** God’s election (Romans 8:29-30; Acts 13:48) doesn’t negate the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) but energizes it. This also reflects God’s desire for all to repent (2 Peter 3:9).
- Other profound tensions include the Trinity, one God in three persons (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19) and the incarnation of Christ (John 1:14). Theologians like A.W. Tozer, in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, emphasize such divine attributes as paradoxes that deepen our awe of God. Let’s apply this to another pivotal theme: justice.



## Justice and mercy illustrated

Scripture resounds with God’s unwavering commitment to justice. Isaiah 61:8 proclaims, “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.” God is impartial, showing no favoritism—what is right is right, and what is wrong is wrong. Unlike us, who often bend justice for those we favor, excusing misdeeds with rationalizations like “They had a tough day” or “Consider the root causes,” God remains

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Teleios Conference**  
February 26-28, 2026  
San Antonio, TX, USA

**Marriage Retreat Cruise**  
April 4-11, 2026  
San Diego, CA, USA

**Church Builders Conference**  
April 23-26, 2026  
Boston, MA, USA

**Marriage Retreat Cruise**  
May 2-9, 2026  
Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

**DT Travel in Bali 2026**  
May 2–10, 2026

**DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise: Footsteps of Paul**  
September 12–22, 2026

**North American Teachers Conference**  
September 17-19, 2026  
Raleigh, NC, USA

**Conferencia de Las Americas**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Oct 15-18, 2026

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### > **Capital Collective Church Seeks Lead Minister**

December 23, 2025 • Ben and Joann Acosta – Washington, DC, USA

Capital Collective Church (CCCDC) is a growing church community, located in Washington, DC and seeks a lead minister. Established in 2022 as a church planting by the Capital Rivers Church (CRC), our congregation includes young professionals, college...

### > **2025 Delegates Meeting Report**

December 16, 2025 • Rafael Lua – Los Angeles, CA, USA

More than 200 global church leaders convened in Florida from October 20–24, 2025, for the ICOC Delegates Meetings—our first in-person Delegates gathering since 2022 and a powerful reaffirmation...

### > **Halifax-Dartmouth Church Seeks Evangelist**

December 14, 2025 • Halifax-Dartmouth Church of Christ

The Halifax-Dartmouth Church of Christ is prayerfully seeking a full-time evangelist to help lead and grow our church family, and to share the good news of Jesus. We are looking for a man with a clear calling from God, a deep conviction to follow his Word, share his...

### > **Thirty Years of Prayer: Uncle Kang’s Journey to Faith**

December 12, 2025 • Summer Cheung – Hong Kong, China

This is the story of Uncle Kang’s long journey toward faith and baptism, shaped by decades of prayer, love, and God’s quiet guidance. Uncle Kang is Aunt Mona’s husband, and he began attending church with her more than thirty years ago. A taxi driver by profession...