Social Justice as Ministry

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JCoR-Zambia Workshop
29 November 2022

What is Justice?

- It is about trying to organize the economic, social and political structure of the world in such a way that it values equally each individual and the environment.

- It is necessarily social because it is interpersonal, thus social justice
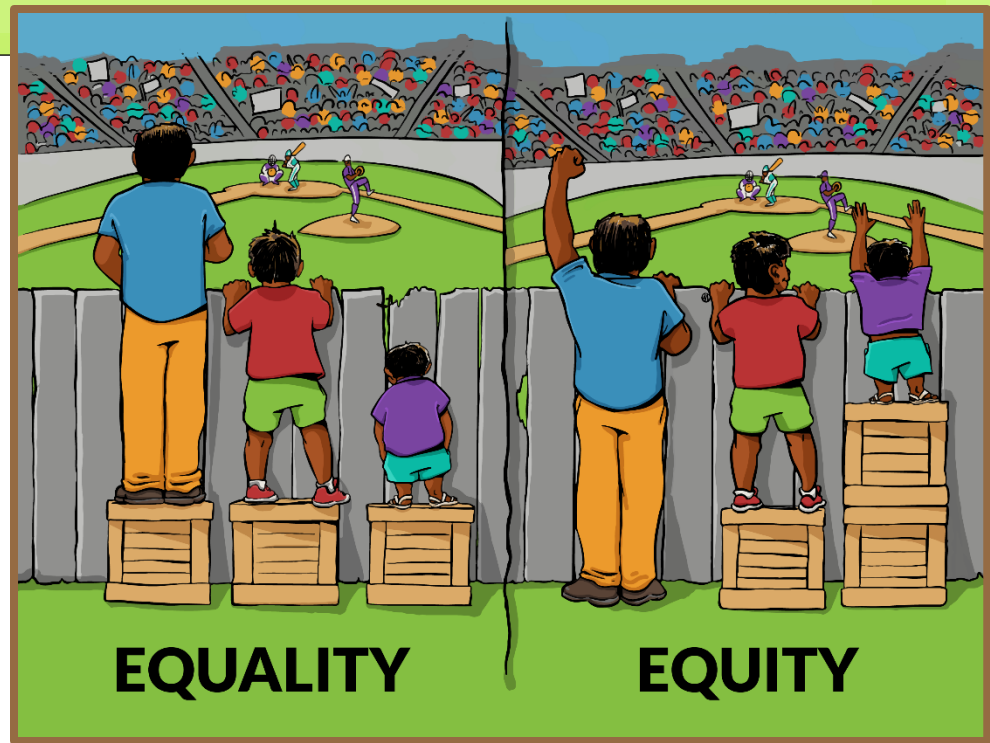
Social Justice

Social justice therefore has to do with:

- issues such as poverty, inequality, human trafficking, racism/tribalism, lack of concern for the environment

- what lies at the root of each social problem

- not so much someone's private sin but rather a huge, blind system that is inherently unfair

Social Justice
(continued)

EQUALITY   EQUITY

- Not so much about fairness as about affirmative action or "positive discrimination" (more about equity than equality)

- Aims to set the oppressed free

- Begins in our own hearts and our own struggle to grow in inner freedom from prejudice, fear, securities and all forms of privileges

- Justice demands a compassionate vision that enables us to see life from the side of, and through the eyes of the people made poor and those made powerless.

- It is a significant part of Proclaiming the Gospel- our Christian life is not necessarily about pious living but promoting a Faith that Does Justice

Biblical Foundation

- John 10:10: "I came that they may have life and have it to the FULL"

- Lk 4: 16-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives,, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed free, to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord"

Demands of Social Justice

It calls us

- to attend to the needs of the poor and together with the poor, seek out and identify the causes of their poverty and remove obstacles to personal and spiritual growth (Solidarity)
- to identify structures of sin in our society, overturn them when necessary or purify them
- to put my talents at the service of the world (Generosity- desire to serve the world)
- to empower people or groups that have been dis-empowered
- to DO SOMETHING to bring change on issues we care about