

Triune Rightness: Earthed

As the Great Dance of the Trinity gets earthed in human life, it pushes other things out of the way. While we know that the New Covenant is how the Triune God establishes righteousness and justice in the world, the legal portions of the Old Testament can help us flesh out our vision of what right-ness and justice look like. As people share in the wholeness of the Triune life (Leviticus 19.2), their life-together takes on certain characteristics:

- Economic structures that make wealth accessible to poor people and immigrants (19.9-10).
- Respect for property rights (19.11a).
- Honest commerce (19.11b, 13a).
- Simple speech, un-muddied by religious jargon (19.12).
- Employers that treat employees fairly (19.13b).
- Reasonable accommodation for the disabled (19.14).
- Judicial systems that work the same for the poor and the rich (19.15).
- Economic arrangements that respect human life, dignity, and well-being (19.16).
- Open, honest conflict resolution in families and communities (19.17).
- Forgiveness, reconciliation, mutual goodwill (19.18).

Old Testament laws often occur not in the form of imperative sentences (commands), but rather in the form of simple future-tense declarations: “You will do this,” and “You will not do that.” From a New Covenant perspective, we can use them to shape positive visions of God’s good future, the future that has now arrived in the person of Jesus Christ.

~ John Stonecypher