

A CALL TO ACCOUNTABILITY

Lesson 1, Amos 5:18-24, KJV

FAIR ENOUGH

Review the situations below and mark each as being fair (**F**) or unfair (**U**) or indicate that you are not sure (**N**). Be ready to defend your responses.

- ___ 1. Two students work equally hard on a math assignment. One gets all the answers correct and gets an A, while the other gets 8 of 10 correct and gets a B.
- ___ 2. At Newtown High, there is a boys' basketball team and a girls' team. An exceptionally skilled girl wants to play on the boys' team but is not allowed to do so.
- ___ 3. In the Jones family, there are two teen boys and two teen girls. The girls are expected to help with cooking and laundry, and the boys are expected to help with yard work and auto maintenance.
- ___ 4. First Church traditionally recognizes mothers on Mother's Day and fathers on Father's Day. There is no special recognition for childless individuals.
- ___ 5. A man gets on a crowded bus and takes the last available seat. At the next stop, a physically disabled man with a cane gets on. The driver instructs the last man seated to give up his seat to the disabled man.

SEVEN DAYS OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

If we want the world to *be* right, we must *do* right! For the next seven days, evaluate how you can do your part in making a fairer and more righteous society. Consider the question of the day, and meditate on the associated Scripture passage for that day. Recruit an accountability partner to complete this exercise with you.

Day 1—*Forgiveness* (Matthew 6:15): Am I holding a grudge? Am I resentful to those whom I believe are treating me unfairly?

Day 2—*Concern* (Proverbs 21:13): Do I really care about those around me in need? What can I do to help them?

Day 3—*Selflessness* (James 4:3): Am I more concerned about my comfort than the suffering of others? Are my prayers overly centered on asking God to give me things?

Day 4—*Patience* (Micah 7:7): Do I keep on praying for a situation, or do I give up too easily?

Day 5—*Understanding* (1 Peter 3:7): Do I act as if everyone should be just like me? Or do I seek to understand others' differences and respond to them compassionately?

Day 6—*Ethics* (Deuteronomy 24:14): How do the people with whom I do business see me? Am I to be trusted? Do I act ethically in my business dealings?

Day 7—*Impartiality* (Romans 12:16): Do I harbor preconceptions about people who are of a different ethnicity, socioeconomic group, or religion? How can my circle of friends become more inclusive?