



Right Relationship

The concept of *right relationship* has a rich history in the Catholic tradition, grounded in biblical justice. Throughout Scripture we see examples of God's relationship with the People of God as characterised by and described as *righteousness*.

Western understanding of righteousness today is often thought of in terms of personal piety but the concept of personal in biblical times was foreign. The measure of a person's worth was always in relationship to their community. People experienced honour or shame not as an emotional response but as a community's measure of one's actions. So righteousness was not measured in terms of personal virtue but how a person was in right relationship.

This was the basis of the call of the prophets against the injustices of their time, a critique on how one cared for the orphans, widows and foreigners in their midst which has strong resonance with our modern day prophets.

This also was the grounding of Jesus' ministry. The proclamation of the reign of God through Jesus' teachings and healings was a call to right relationship based on justice, love and peace.

This call continues for Christians today - a call to right relationship with God, self, others and creation.