

## ***Your Birthright***

—Genesis 1:27–28, 31

—Pope John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People, On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the World*, 16

—Vatican II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 41

—Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day, 2000

[illegible]

## The Four Faces of Justice

**Commutative justice** calls for fundamental fairness in all agreements and exchanges between individuals or private social groups. It demands respect for the equal human dignity of all persons in economic transactions, contracts, or promises. For example, workers owe their employers diligent work in exchange for their wages. Employers are obligated to treat their employees as persons, paying them fair wages in exchange for the work done and establishing conditions and patterns of work that are truly human.

—National Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
*Economic Justice for All*, 69

**Distributive justice** requires that the allocation of income, wealth, and power in society be evaluated in light of its effects on persons whose basic material needs are unmet. The Second Vatican Council stated: “The right to have a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and one’s family belongs to everyone.” If persons are to be recognized as members of the human community, then the community has an obligation to help fulfill these basic needs unless an absolute scarcity of resources makes this strictly impossible.

—National Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
*Economic Justice for All*, 70

**Legal justice** means recognizing that the more closely the world comes together, the more widely do people’s obligations transcend particular groups and extend to the whole world. This will be realized only if individuals and groups practice moral and social virtues and foster them in social living. Then, under the necessary help of divine grace, there will arise a generation of new women and men, the molders of new humanity.

—Pope Paul VI,  
*Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 30

**Social justice** implies that persons have an obligation to be active and productive participants in the life of society and that society has a duty to enable them to participate in this way.

—National Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
*Economic Justice for All*, 71

All human beings, therefore, are ends to be served by the institutions that make up the economy, not means to be exploited for more narrowly defined goals. Human personhood must be respected with a reverence that is religious. When we deal with each other, we should do so with the sense of awe that arises in the presence of something holy and sacred. For that is what human beings are: we are created in the image of God (Gn 1:27).

—National Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
*Economic Justice for All*, 28

For each statement, mark **J** if you think it's just, **U** if unjust. Be ready to explain your decisions.

- ## A Self-Evaluation

\_\_\_\_\_ I treat other people the way I want to be treated.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am generally open-minded and reasonable.

\_\_\_\_\_ I try always to play by the rules.

\_\_\_\_\_ I think it's impossible to treat everyone fairly.

\_\_\_\_\_ I take advantage of people.

\_\_\_\_\_ I treat people with equanimity and impartiality.

\_\_\_\_\_ I consider how my actions affect others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I feel obliged to contribute to the common good.

\_\_\_\_\_ I think life is basically unfair and that there's not much anyone can do about it.

[illegible]

## I Think Faith Is Like . . .

Each dual statement contains options that could complete the phrase “I think faith is like . . .” For each statement, circle the option with which you identify most.

a search for truth	- - - - -	truth discovered
hanging on	- - - - -	letting go
simple	- - - - -	complicated
a sure bet	- - - - -	risky business
sunshine	- - - - -	clouds
chicken soup	- - - - -	Buffalo wings
a sprint	- - - - -	a marathon
a question	- - - - -	an answer
a valley	- - - - -	a mountain
mashed potatoes	- - - - -	jalapeño peppers
defeat	- - - - -	triumph
giving	- - - - -	receiving
a leap	- - - - -	a decision
useful	- - - - -	useless
relaxed	- - - - -	stressed
morning	- - - - -	evening
special	- - - - -	ordinary
dangerous	- - - - -	safe

Describe a time your faith helped you overcome an obstacle.

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If your faith in God was the basis for a TV show, what would it be called?

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How well do you measure up to love? For each statement circle how well you believe you're doing.

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly

Not at all      Not so well      Well      More than Well      Perfectly



You are good because God loves you.