

## SAVING JESUS FROM THE CHURCH

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### Chapter 8: Justice as Covenant Not Control

#### **Thesis:**

A Christian covenant by definition, a covenant of inclusiveness. Participating in the covenant that is for all people with compassion and equality-or it is not Christian.

#### **Problems:**

Many Christians in the past, dedicated their efforts on behalf of public "common" social and human equality out of their religious conviction. Most evangelicals before the 1970's believed that partisan political involvement would compromise the gospel and religious conviction was an affair of the heart and not for show. But this changed with the rise of Christian Right in the late 20th century. Since then, religious and political views and conversations has become narrow and one sided.

#### **Argumentations:**

Narrow and misunderstood approach to the ideas of "salvation" and "covenant."

Belief of blood atonement and Jesus as the only and exclusive divine Savior and covenant as a private ambition, an exclusiveness. This approach was used by the church to seek political power at the expense of the inclusiveness of all people. Contrast to the original wisdom of its Christian gospel.

Salvation (transaction) theology vs. Wisdom (covenant of compassion)theology.---between the Christ who saves and Jesus who transforms.

Salvation theology stress the thoughts and notion of God has done something for me, exclusively. If not, suffering, which understood as form of God's punishment. God's "justice" (suffering and punishment) is seen as the contrary to "mercy." Wisdom theology is inclusiveness of all people, and suffering as journey toward wisdom.

Biblical justice and covenant.

Volunteering mutual covenant with the unenforceable, and not as instruments of self protection from fear.

A religious covenant is not an agreement contract, but of a forgiveness, patience and mercy, without the individual's autonomy (individualism/exclusiveness) but in belief of egalitarian(communal) vision of the future. The strong protecting the weak by renouncing

the power to control, parting of mistrust of other people, and trusting the mystery and letting go of the anxiety of physical bodily death.

**Additional thoughts/Meditations:**

**Open to your suggestions**