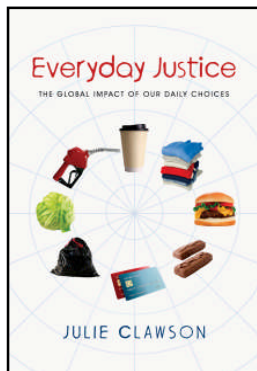


Q&A

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



“Every product in our consumer hands has a trail . . . From coffee to cars, there is a collision of economics and ethics that Christ-followers must take seriously. By refusing to make justice a liberal or conservative cause, she helps us participate in restoration, ethical consumption and the beautiful pursuit of justice in God’s world.”

—Nancy Ortberg, author of *Looking for God: An Unexpected Journey Through Tattoos, Tofu and Pronouns*

Everyday Justice: The Global Impact of Our Daily Choices
October 2009, \$16, 208 pages, paper, 0-8308-3628-4



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How did you come to write *Everyday Justice*?

Julie Clawson: Over the past seven to eight years I have slowly become more aware of the justice issues in the world today while simultaneously realizing that the Bible has a lot to say about seeking justice. This biblical emphasis was largely overlooked in my faith background, and it has been an ongoing struggle to understand how exactly my faith should influence my perspective and interaction with these issues. As I did more research and learned more about faith and justice, I attempted to discipline my life into one that sought to love others with my every action. I found little to direct this pursuit within the evangelical world and so started sharing what I discovered with others. Many of my friends who grew up in the church had never heard that the Bible implores us to love others by seeking justice for them. *Everyday Justice* is a result of my desire to share what I have learned and how I have applied it to my life with other believers. I think many Christians care about justice issues, but they don’t know exactly what those are or how they should be applied to their faith. This book provides an introduction to how and why as believers we are to seek justice in our everyday lives.

What exactly does “everyday justice” mean for Christians?

Julie: As Christians we are called to love God and others by seeking justice for all. This pursuit involves not only serving and respecting everyone created in God’s image, but actively working to eliminate injustice. Our everyday actions, like shopping, driving and eating, have global impacts and often unintentionally support injustice instead of love. *Everyday Justice* outlines the connection between our everyday actions and justice issues, explores the biblical rationale for how we should respond, and provides practical suggestions for how we can avoid injustice and promote justice in our day-to-day lives.

What are some examples for how to live out everyday justice, for instance, when it comes to gas consumption?

Julie:

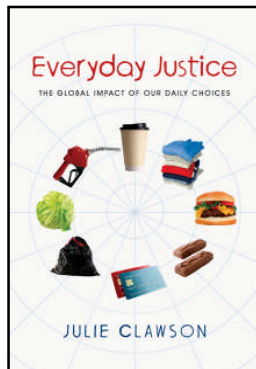
1. Drive less.
2. Make your car fuel-efficient.
3. Reduce the amount of plastic you use.
4. Change your eating habits.
5. Control your home temperature.
6. Use energy-efficient appliances in your home.
7. Simplify your life.
8. Lobby to seek alternative fuel options.

Read more in chapter three, “Cars: The Global and Local Impact of Oil Consumption.”

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Q&A

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



Julie Clawson (M.A., intercultural studies, Wheaton College Graduate School) is a writer, blogger, and moderator of the *Emerging Women* and *Emerging Parents* blogs. She has been a church planter and copastor of Via Christus Community Church in Yorkville, Illinois. She and her family live in Austin, Texas.

How has the call to justice been undermined by politics and labeling?

Julie: Unfortunately recent discussions in the church have left many believing that justice issues are only for certain types of churches or certain political parties. The call to act justly often gets lost in dichotomizing dialogues and misunderstandings. The height of these tensions—the conservative-liberal divide—sadly causes discussions about justice to be tainted with those polarized extremes. For example, if a liberal group talks about caring for the environment, then that must be a liberal issue and, therefore, taboo for good conservatives. Similarly if a conservative group rallies to reduce abortions then that becomes solely a conservative issue.

The problem with this sort of labeling is that it undermines productive dialogue, and it stands in the way of making any real progress or accomplishing true justice. By shuffling justice issues into the conservative and liberal camps we decide that the issues promoted by people different than us are, at best, not important, and at worst, representative of all the bad things we don't like about the other side. We can't see past the labels and actually look for the truth in what others are saying, and thus we risk ignoring justice issues that God would have us care about.

Furthermore, when we start labeling according to us-versus-them categories, we blind ourselves to the human reality of the issues. We forget who we are seeking justice for as we get entrenched in our own ideology. People living in poverty and oppression should not be dismissed as merely a liberal or a conservative issue. They are hungry and exploited. God created them in his image and we are to love them. Not just some of us, either. All of us.

When Jesus said in Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,” he didn't add the disclaimer “when it agreed with your political agenda.” No, Jesus told us to feed the hungry regardless of our (or their) political persuasion. God is bigger than twenty-first-century American politics. And while it's okay to have political convictions, they shouldn't stand in the way of the call to act justly.

I hope this book will stretch you to take off the liberal or conservative lens and see the world differently. The call to self-sacrificial love should always supersede whatever is written on our voter registration cards. If you thought some justice issues were only issues for *them* to care about, I hope this book can demonstrate that all followers of Christ should care about justice issues wherever they arise.

(answer taken from the introduction)



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