

We The People

Program 175

Fairness



Good day to you. Being **fair** is a major pillar of the values of a civilised society. If a society did not exhibit fairness we would rightfully say it was uncivilised because that principle would conversely accept that being unfair was ok, even desirable. On the surface, being fair would seem simple but like everything else today it's not. Right minded people intuitively know what fairness is because they have a modicum of common sense. However, fairness is relative to many and worthy of discussion as it represents our auto pilot in life and by its very nature helps us navigate through all our days.

When we claim to be fair we also claim to have good judgment and so if fairness is judged by us alone it may be flawed. We need a bench mark and for this we look to history, a mentor, to parents or to Christianity to establish a proper base for fairness. In the courts, justice is supposed to be blind in the sense all are treated equally. What then if the law is an ass and in a particular case it's a law left wanting or the manipulation of that law's application is presented in a way that is unfair by any measure. Surely justice should be fair but what does a judge do when the law does not reflect the view of the people or if it's warped by political correctness rather than fairness. Does the judge slavishly follow the law or are they driven by fairness and equity and morality as well.

Often fairness rears its head where the public purse is concerned. Is it fair for us to fund the medical bills of a smoking related illness where the person knew the dangers. If John has fair skin and ignores the calls to use sunscreen then should we pay for his skin cancer treatment what if John is just 12 years old. Most people coming legally to Australia from another country are required to pay their own way and cannot rely on the public purse for some years. Then, is it fair when others arrive uninvited and are supported from the public purse what if they were fleeing an an evil political or religious regime..... what if it was us what if the public purse is empty.

You see fairness is a complex matter only as worthy as the bench mark we employ. In a free society is it fair when we are gagged by political correctness and freedom of speech is effectively lost. Political correctness is by its very nature unfair as it creates bias in the law often against the majority, yet we tolerate it. Political correctness is a scourge on society and effectively legislates fear into the law. Is it fair that justice in Australia is unaffordable yet the legal fraternity offer little to address that corruption of equal justice for all. Is that what 30 pieces of silver buys you. As a philosophical question, we may be reaching a point where we should question the separation of powers in Australia so the right and the left hand have some sense of unified fairness. Is it fair that the Senate can stop the passage of government legislation where there is a mandate from the people, whenever the recently formed Daffodil Party thinks otherwise. Is it fair when yet another rapist or murderer is paroled and fouls society again. Surely it's not because the justice system gambled and lost. Is it fair that so many aboriginals are in gaol in Western Australia compared to the rest of society.....if they broke the law isn't it fair that justice is blind.

Because we have so many disparate voices in society and because there has not been one united front calling us to action as in war or during a national crisis, then it seems we try and convince ourselves fairness is negotiable and its not. A national call to purpose is a good thing and builds unity and fairness in the true sense of the word. When I was involved in Rotary I was impressed by their rules which ask before acting, "**Is it the truth and is it fair**". That's a great question to ask ourselves every day but remember, for some who sing from a different hymn sheet their rules and values are different to ours. Therefore, it is essential that new people coming to Australia adopt our bench marks and our customs and our standards and if not we will surely perish as the nation we know today and that's not fair. If a multi cultural society means a loss of social cohesion and little fairness because society is fractured, then that's not a good thing. I think a mono culture from multicultural roots is much better and fair, as then we all have the same life code and measure. It's called common sense.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley