

Doctrinal Studies

GOD'S LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS – Genesis Chapters 1 – 11

DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

The Five Divine Institutions

- #1 – Volition
- #2 – Marriage
- #3 – Family
- #4 – Human Society
- #5 – Nationalism

The difference between Divine Establishment and Divine Institutions:

- Divine Establishment – A set of principles defining proper conduct and interaction between people.
- Divine Institutions – A set of specific social structures instituted by God to promote the survival, security, well-being and happiness of the human race.

The Laws of Divine Establishment

Six Principles of the Laws of Divine Establishment

1. Authority and Responsibility
 - Authority – the divinely conferred right to exercise control. All legitimate authority is conferred directly or indirectly by God.
 - Responsibility – all who receive authority are accountable to the one who delegates that authority for the proper use of it.
 - Authority and responsibility are inseparable – they are two sides of the same coin.

GOD'S LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS (Continued)

2. Liberty

- Liberty is the divinely conferred freedom to choose within defined limits. God is perfectly and totally free.

God created man in His own image, so He created the man to have limited freedom. Angels also have limited freedom of choice.

Finite creatures can only have limited freedom.

God created man with choice to resolve the angelic Conflict. Man is to exercise choice, but must accept the consequences of the choices, whether for good or evil (Eccl. 12:14).

3. Morality and Justice

- Morality – The code written by God on men's hearts (Rom. 2:14). Man's thinking can reinforce or suppress this moral code.
- Justice – The correction or desire to correct the results of failure to follow dictates of morality.

The old sin nature (OSN) always seeks to suppress morality, and promote immorality.

When a society becomes infected with immorality, it inevitably becomes hostile to God.

4. Free Enterprise

- Free Enterprise – The right and duty to acquire property or profit in a moral manner through honest and sinless work.

Providing goods and services that cater to the public's sinful or worldly desires in a distortion of the free enterprise principle.

Legitimate taxation is a proper aspect of free enterprise – evading such taxation is immoral.

Capricious or confiscatory taxation is illegitimate and immoral and is the hallmark of an evil government.

GOD'S LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS (Continued)

5. Social Responsibility

We all have the urge to help others. However, this urge can be squelched, suppressed or perverted by the OSN of man.

A hallmark of a truly moral society is the willingness of its members to help the helpless.

Failure on this point will cause the state to step in to fill the vacuum – with all the inefficiency, waste, fraud and corruption.

Suppressing the urge to help others stifles the conscience, and promotes immorality in society.

6. Internal and External Security

Because of sin in the world, we must provide for our security and the security of our loved ones' and our possessions.

Failure to do this means we will fall victim to the unrestrained OSN of the criminal.

Threats to our security fall into two categories: internal from the criminal element, and external from foreign aggression.

The willingness to defend against these threats constitutes a vital part of the fabric of Divine Establishment.