

GOD'S THREE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

God has established three institutions; the family, civil government and the church. Although each has a distinct purpose, the underlying objective of all three is to establish order. Each of these institutions function best when Biblical principles serve as a foundation. *"God rules over the kingdom of men..." Dan. 4:17*

I. Marriage // Family

In regards to marriage, God sets the rules!

It makes no difference what the "knowledgeable experts" conclude.

- Marriage is between a man and a woman. (*Gen. 1:27*)
- Marriage is to be monogamous. (*Mat. 19:4*)
- Marriage has a divine order: husband leads, wife respects/supports, children obey.
- Marriage is to be for life until interrupted by death.
- Adultery is the only biblical grounds for divorce. (*Mat. 5:31-32*)

God's 5 Purposes For The Family

- The Family is the basic unit of society.
- The Family regulates and develops character.
- The Family teaches love.
- The Family teaches responsibility.
- The Family provides stability.

II. Civil Government

In regards to government, God sets the rules!

Civil government is a system of political and social representation providing direction, regulation, control, and restraint: a state system of rules and principles.

(*Gen. 9:6, Ps. 2:10, Rom. 13:1-4, I Tim. 2:14*)

The functions of civil government include:

- Advancing those who do good (*Rom. 13:3, I Pet. 2:13, 14*)
- Punishing those who do evil (*Rom. 13:2,4, I Pet. 2:13, 14*)
- Securing the liberty and safety of the people (Preamble to the Constitution)

As we pray, "Lord, may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we're inviting God's help in advancing His principles in every arena. Promoting biblical values in family and church can be advanced in civil government four ways:

- 1) Pray for those in authority (*I Tim. 2:1-4*)
- 2) Consistently advance Biblical values (*Lk. 19:13*)
- 3) Select God-honoring leaders (*Ex. 18:21*)
- 4) We are to pay taxes (*Matt. 19:6*)

Five Facts About Civil Government

- 1) Civil government is one of God's institutions given to mankind. (*Rom 13:1-7*)
- 2) Not all governments are from God.
 - *Hos. 8:3-4* -- "They have set up kings, but not by Me..."
 - *I Sam. 8:18* -- When Israel demanded a king, there were consequences. (*vs. 18*)
 - Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, has tortured hundreds of thousands of his own people.
- 3) God does not expect obedience to all governments.
- 4) Eight examples of people who God blessed for disobeying civil government:
 - *Ex. 1:15-17* -- Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh, refusing to abort Hebrew babies
 - *Jos. 2:3* -- Rahab defied King of Jericho by hiding Israeli spies
 - *I Sam. 14:24* -- King Saul's soldiers refused to kill Jonathan for eating honey
 - *Esther 1:10-12* -- Approached the King's court uninvited
 - *Dan. 3:1-18* -- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego defied Nebuchadnezzar, refusing to bow and were supernaturally vindicated.
 - *Dan. 6:6-11* -- Daniel continued to pray in spite of the King of Persia's edict.
 - *Matt. 2:8* -- Wise men defied King Herod by not returning to him.
 - *Acts 5:27* -- Peter and John defied Pharisees and continued to preach Jesus, "*We ought to obey God rather than man.*"
- 5) No matter what type of government it may be a monarchy, republic, or dictatorship; we owe allegiance to the government as long as that allegiance does not interfere with our duties to God.

III. The Church

In regards to the Church, God sets the rules!

God meets man's physical needs through marriage and government.

God meets man's spiritual needs through the church.

Jesus purchased the Church with His Blood. (*Acts 20:28*)

Jesus is the Head of the Church. (*Eph. 1:22-23*)

Jesus is building His Church. (*Matt. 16:18*)

- The church meets mankind's spiritual needs.
- The church reconciles man to God.
- The church represents Jesus on earth.
- The church is to rule and reign.