

## THREE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

### Intro.

1. We see God's divine hand in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:1).
2. We see God's divine hand in the creation man (Genesis 1:27).
3. We know that God sustains life at this very moment (Acts 17:28).
4. We know that Jesus keeps the world from caving in by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3).
5. God's divine hand is in all things (Hebrews 3:4).
6. God has a hand in the every day affairs of mankind in numerous ways.
7. God ordained or established three divine institutions:
  - a. The home;
  - b. The church;
  - c. Government.
8. As Christians, we have roles in all three of these.
9. We plan to bring a series of lessons on the home we need to lay the groundwork for that by first noticing God's hand in ordaining these three institutions and what they all have in common.

### I. **God ordained the home.**

- A. When asked about marriage and divorce, our Lord looked back past Moses all the way to the Garden of Eden (Matthew 19:4).
- B. Jesus tells us that God established the home and has certain ideals for it that must be met and maintained.
- C. We read about the home being established in Genesis 2.
  1. Adam was created on day six.
  2. God saw that He was alone and first created animals for companions of Adam (Genesis 2:18-20).
  3. Adam did not find a suitable companion so God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam and took a rib from him and created woman (2:21-22).
  4. This woman pleased Adam greatly and the home was formed by God for mankind.
- D. Now there are those that say we marry because we learned this from our ancient animal forefathers.
- E. This idea is found in The Encyclopedia Americana: "Some scholars are inclined to trace the origin of marriage to pairing arrangements of animals below man. Studies reveal that a more or less permanent association between one or males and one or more females is common among birds and higher mammals."
  1. Besides the fact evolution cannot be proven, did you notice two phrases: "more or less, one or more?"
  2. Well which one is it?
  3. It may be true that some species are monogamous, the ones from we supposedly descend, apes, are very much non-monogamous.
  4. Surely we can see that marriage is not some gradual arrangement happened upon by evolution.

- F. Jesus stated that marriage is not to be toyed with by man: “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6).
- G. From all of this, we see that God ordained the home.

## II. **God ordained government.**

- A. This can be seen in Romans 13:1-7, especially verse 1.
- B. The word “ordained” means to set in order.
- C. God put and still puts governments in place.
- D. The first kingdom mentioned in the Bible is that of Nimrod’s in Genesis 10.
  - 1. We don’t know if he was given a divine mandate to establish a kingdom or not.
  - 2. However, Romans 13:1 clearly states that government is ordained of God.
- E. As we consider this, we must try to understand the role of government.
  - 1. Government rules in civil affairs, not moral affairs.
  - 2. God is the ruler in the moral realm and wherever civil and moral affairs overlap, God’s standard is to be followed.
  - 3. This is the reason you will never hear me endorse a candidate for any position from this pulpit.
  - 4. It is not my place.
  - 5. But I most certainly will, and must, preach on moral matters such as homosexuality, gambling and abortion as well as other topics that deal with the sanctity of life.
- F. As Romans 13:1-7 points out, civil government is there to punish evil doers and protect those doing good.
- G. As the government is able to punish evil doers, the government is ordained of God to bear a punishing sword, being called a minister of God.
  - 1. This shows that there is a responsibility on the government to bear proper rule.
  - 2. God will judge those rulers and nations who don’t do so properly.
  - 3. The Old Testament is full of examples of this.
  - 4. We know that Nebuchadnezzar is described as God’s servant (Jeremiah 25:8-12).
- H. The government is to be obeyed as Paul states we must be “subject” to the higher powers.
  - 1. We are to pay or taxes (verse 6-7).
  - 2. We are to pray for those in power (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
  - 3. We are to obey those laws that we don’t like or think are fair.
- I. It is interesting that Paul wrote this section of scripture while in prison and Rome was being ruled by wicked Nero.
- J. As one writer stated, “By way of analogy, God has also approved of and ordained the principle of monogamous marriage. No more than he approves of the abuses of marriage does he approve of the abuses of government.”
- K. No matter what type of government it may be, a monarchy, republic, dictatorship, we owe allegiance to the government as long as that allegiance does not interfere with our duties to God.

**III. God ordained the church.**

- A. We are told that Jesus was going to build His church (Matthew 16:18).
- B. We are told that Jesus purchased that church with His blood (Acts 20:28).
- C. We are told that Jesus is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- D. Since it was God's plan for Jesus to establish the church, and He did so, it is right that deity has the authority over the church.

**IV. What these three have in common.**

- A. What these three have in common can be summed up by what Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar: "God rules in the affairs of men."
- B. God is over all three of these institutions, so we can only do that which He has authorized in conjunction with them.
- C. In regards to marriage, God sets the rules for marriage.
  - 1. It is to be one man and one woman for life.
    - a. As John Davis wrote in his work on Genesis: "The first marriage that God performed is quite clearly the pattern. Those who attempt to mount a biblical case for homosexuality must completely abandon reasonable hermeneutics."
    - b. Simply stated, homosexuality is a sin.
  - 2. Marriage is to be monogamous - Jesus pointed out God's original plan and said that was the way marriage was supposed to be.
  - 3. The husband is to be the head of the house and the wife is to submit to the husband (Ephesians 5:22-33).
  - 4. Marriage is to be for life unless interrupted by death or fornication by one of the spouses involved.
- D. In regards to government, God sets the rules for government.
  - 1. It rules in civil affairs.
  - 2. Christians can be active in the governmental process.
    - a. The Ethiopian served in a governmental office and was not told to quit his job.
    - b. We need Christians involved in the process.
    - c. Whether it be voting for the most moral of candidates or running for office, we need Christians involved.
    - d. If we aren't who will?
- E. In regards to the church, God sets the rules for the church.
  - 1. God reveals to us how to work, worship and the rule in the church.
  - 2. We are to do all things in the church by the authority of Jesus (Colossians 3:17).
- F. As we can easily see, God rules in all three of these divine institutions.