

## Three Institutions Which God Has Ordained, and Their Roles

### Three God-Ordained Institutions

- 1. Family** (Gen 1-3): God creates a male/female couple in the Garden of Eden, designed and commanded to bear and raise children.
- 2. Government** (Gen 9): Men instructed by God to hold men accountable for bloodshed (& eventually other crimes).
- 3. Church** (Acts 2; Acts 5 “we will obey God rather than men”): God’s entity of those saved on earth to live for and to represent Him.

### Separate Functions, Separate Realms of Responsibility

#### 1. The Family

**A. Description:** One man and one woman married for life, serving as one unit (Gen 1:26-27; 2:18-25), bearing children (Gen 1:28; Ps 127:3), and bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Deut 6; Ps 78:1-8; 127:4-5; Proverbs; Eph 6:1-4).

**B. Function:** Serving as the foundational center of relationships for the church and society throughout all of history, promoting God and practicing righteousness.

#### C. Realm of Responsibility:

- Bearing and raising children
- Ministering together as a couple as the core unit of society
- Caring for one another as a family unit
- Providing for family and extended family (including in old age)
- Serving as the core group for spiritual training
- Providing a base of ministry to others

#### D. Relationship to the Government

- To honor authorities. (Rom 13, Titus 3:1)
- To obey laws (unless they violate God’s commands).
- To pay taxes (including military service for men?).
- To train children to follow authority.
- To do good. (Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-2)

#### E. Relationship to the Church

- Participate as families (as well as individuals)
- To learn and live out biblical roles and relationships as husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, and children.
- Minister as individuals and as families, and from within families.

#### 2. The Government (Gen 9:6; Rom 13:1-7)

**A. Description:** God-designed entity to maintain civil order and to protect from without and within by punishing those that do evil.

**B. Function:** To govern, make laws, wage war, punish lawbreakers and evil doers, and to collect taxes to fund these activities.

#### C. Realm of Responsibility:

- Protection from evil doers (including other nations)
- Punishment of evil doers (including waging war against enemy nations)

#### D. Relationship to the Family

- To protect the family from evil doers
- To pass laws that promote righteousness
- To punish individuals who violate the law
- To collect taxes to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities

#### E. Relationship to the Church

- To protect the church from evil doers
- To punish individuals who violate the law

#### 3. The Church

**A. Description:** The visible body of Christ, believers of this dispensation, which is the pillar and ground of the truth in this era.

**B. Function:** To faithfully make disciples until the Lord returns, teaching them to observe all things.

#### C. Realm of Responsibility:

- To make disciples by presenting the gospel to the world in Word and complementary action.
- To teach disciples to observe all that God has commanded.
- To know and to live the truth.
- To function as local units, encouraging, admonishing, comforting, caring for, and serving one another.

#### D. Relationship to the Family

- To train men, women, and children their biblical roles and responsibilities, and to encourage them to live accordingly.
- To train believers to pass these truths on to the next generation.

#### E. Relationship to the Government

- To differentiate between earthly and heavenly citizenship (John 18:36; Phil 3:20)
- To honor authorities, obey laws, and pay taxes (?)
- To follow God rather than men, when the situation arises
- To influence individuals and families toward the truth, which in turn influences the government, including raising up righteous men to lead in positions of governmental leadership
- To provide appropriate input as citizens (salt & light)
- To teach believers of the God-ordained nature of government
- To teach / encourage believers to relate rightfully to government
- To pray for all government leaders, with a view to leading quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty for eternal impact