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A division of Doctrinal Studies Bible Church

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Colossians series

Col 1:16-17 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

The Laws of Divine Establishment

1. **The laws of divine establishment are given for the orderly function and survival of the human race during the angelic conflict.**

a. These laws operate from the fall of man until the second advent of Christ.
b. They apply to the believer and the unbeliever alike, providing blessing and protection for the perpetuation of the human race.
c. The laws reflect God's design of what is best for mankind
d. When these principles are recognized & honored, mankind prospers

2. **The first & most important principle is volition, the capacity to choose.**

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; [17] but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

a. We are endowed with free will, the ability to freely choose what we will believe, think say and do.

- Every command in the bible indicates the ability to choose to obey it or not

b. The proper environment for free will is human freedom guarded by law

c. Human freedom protects personal choice and the right to live gives the human race the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, provided, of course, that it does not violate the rights of others.

d. The enemies of God are constantly seeking to limit human freedom, to control the world & fulfill Lucifer's ambition to be like God.

e. Human freedom is compared to spiritual freedom

- Human freedom – physical, political, economic freedom to choose your life
- Spiritual freedom – temporary free from the OSN & OM beliefs while F/HS

3. **The second law is marriage – the joining of a man & woman together for life.**

Gen 2:22-24 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. [23] And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." [24] For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

a. Each individual retains the corrupted image of God within them but both male and female are required to fully express the image of God.
b. Christian marriage, properly functioning produces image of Christ & church
c. Marriage is a union combining masculinity and femininity into a unit to stand together against the difficulties of life in the devil's world.
d. Marriage forms the basis for stability in society and is a protection for the youth from the corruption of sexual immorality.
e. Marriage is the enclosed environment where virtue is developed as the partners adjust to one another in the will of God.
f. An intact marriage is the ideal environment for raising healthy children.

4. **Divine Law three is the family – ideally a married couple & children**

Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), [3] that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. [4] And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

a. Birthing & raising children provides for the perpetuation of the human race.
b. Parental authority is the basic authority of life, preparing children for every other form of authority in life.
c. In addition to logistics, parents must train the children in the functions and the principles of life, leading them to the Lord, training them in the Lord & allowing them to observe the parents walk with the Lord.
d. Healthy families produce healthy children who become good citizens.

5. **Divine Law four is Nations & Governments of men.**

Gen 11:7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." [8] So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. [9] Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.
Gen 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

a. Only nationalism can provide the freedom from forces of evil for the church to evangelize & grow in grace & knowledge
b. Nationalism is a protection against global control of the world by evil forces
c. Each nation has its own authority structure & law to maintain some level of protection & order for its people – law & order & police
d. It is proper for nations to field a military to protect its borders and its people from being subjugated & enslaved by other nations.
e. A proper government aligns itself with the Laws of Divine Establishment
f. Evil governments, motivated by the greed & power lust of its rulers use the people for their own benefit, removing freedom for control.

6. **LDE are a system that works together to provide a healthy life for those who follow the principles they teach.**

a. Those who use their volition to submit to legit authority will develop a healthy, discerning belief system & soul.
b. Healthy people tend to marry other healthy people and conduct their marriages in healthy ways.
c. Healthy marriages tend to produce healthy children who are trained to use their volitions well, marry well & raise their own children as healthy people
d. Healthy people, marriages & families produce good citizens, with common sense & hopefully growing Christians to make great nations.
e. This cycle continues as long as the people hang onto the basic morality of LDE

Common Sense Application

1. Jesus Christ is the creator of the heavens, the earth, the visible, invisible and everything relating to our daily life.
2. Christ is the architect of nations and the authority structures by which nations operate to protect the freedom of its people.
3. Jesus Christ controls history even while allowing the choices & consequences of mankind to play out according to the sowing/reaping principle.
4. As a nation abandons LDE, it begins to degenerate within, ultimately dividing & tearing itself apart, becoming vulnerable to military defeat from other nations.
5. The purpose of nations is to provide freedom & protection for the church and to be a haven for the Jews.
6. As the nation abandons its reverence for God & Christ, it will lose its moral bearing, eventually abandoning LDE.
7. As goes the church, so goes the nation – when the people of the nation stop pursuing the very purpose for which the nation exists, the nation will fall.
8. Within any one generation there will be a number of believers who choose to be hungry to grow into a mature relationship with God.

1 Peter 2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

- Longing – AAImp – the believer must choose to desire the word for growth

9. As the number of hungry believers (pivot) grows less & apathy toward the word of God grows, the Lord allows increasing levels of adversity to wake up the church to their need for Christ.
10. Jesus Christ controls history and His decisions are all based on what is best for the unbeliever to hear/believe the gospel & the church to grow spiritually.

Clearly the US is headed for difficult days, the church especially will come under pressure giving the believer extreme opportunities to trust the Lord and giving Him opportunities to reveal His grace & mercy through the gospel.

Opportunities for believers to publicly demonstrate their own grace orientation & trust in the Lord will likely increase as the nation degenerates under the control of an evil government.