

A God of Good Order

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." You're familiar with the text and what follows. Light and dark. Heavens. Seas. Land. Vegetation. Then these spaces are filled. Lights in the expanse. Sun and moon. Fish and birds. Livestock, creeping things, and beasts. God put everything in order, and it was good.

God's order in space would be so consistent they would serve for signs and seasons, for days and years. We could move on to life on earth: fish, birds, insects, land animals, etc. After studying the bodies and habits of all creatures, how many have come to believe in a higher power? How many, having learned that Jehovah God is the creator, have turned their eyes toward Him and proclaimed His work? Yes, our God is a God of good order.

His good order continues within humanity. Like the rest of God's creation, you can learn of His order on both a large and small scale. I'm taking for granted that you understand He is King of His Kingdom, but he delegates His authority and assigns roles among us.

- **The Governing Authorities**
 - 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - Romans 13:1-7
 - Titus 3:1-2
 - We've discussed these passages during past classes, but we understand that while governing authorities can overstep their boundaries, they still play a significant role. Without order, a country is plagued with chaos.
- **The Family, Bondservants, & Masters**
 - Colossians 3:18-4:1
 - Ephesians 5:22-6:9
 - Titus 2:1-10
 - Joel did an excellent job during his class on the family. You'll remember how he argued that a breakdown of family roles results in the downfall of a country.
- **The Church**
 - Ephesians 4:11-14
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-13
 - Titus 1:5-9
 - Hebrews 13:17
 - You'll remember how Paul had to defend his role (unfortunately) as an apostle. God appointed such men for the good of the Kingdom. God had a plan for the church. It was very practical. It served an excellent purpose and still does today. You'll remember how Paul also spent time appointing elders in every town and encouraged Titus and Timothy to do the same. Ministers were there to help as well. If there were church needs, then God also had deacons fill those needs.

When everyone plays their role, it benefits on both a small and large scale. Satan understands this, and so do the heavenly hosts. Angels left their place of authority. Satan is puffed up. I don't know the story behind the spiritual curtain, but it hints at issues of roles. Do you think

Satan knows the importance of roles and order? If you were Satan and understood God's order's importance, how would you disrupt the roles? If the idea is to rebel or change their positions . . . what would that look like?

Here are my concerns and some observations.

- **The Governing Authorities**

- They aren't respected.
- They become the secular moral compass. It becomes a nation's God.
- People are taking matters into their own hands.

Let's be mindful and work to . . .

- Reinforce what their role is to one another respectfully.

- **The Family, Bondservants, & Masters**

- Wives lead while men submit.
- Children disobey, think they can instruct, and become the focus. We cannot overindulge our children. We go from "honor your father and mother" to spoil the child.

Let's be mindful and work to . . .

- Husband & Wife: Support one another. Lift each other with words of encouragement and hope. Communicate.
- Children: Remember your parents have your best interest at heart. Also, remember they are equipped for their role to lead you - you are not. This is for your good.
- Managers & Non-Managers: Remember, we all answer to God. We represent Him as children. Your leadership reflects His. Your work ethic reflects Him. We're supposed to be a blessing to society, not a curse.

- **The Church**

- Leaders don't understand their roles.
- Good leaders are dismissed.
- Who should lead changes.
- Men don't know what to work toward.

Let's be mindful and work to . . .

- Commit to defining the church - what's the body of Christ?
- Honor those who are older. Listen more.
- In particular, consider the "why/what" of different roles.
- Work towards those goals.
- Have respect and sympathy for your elders.