

Three Great God-Ordained Institutions

1 Cor. 11:22, 34; Matt. 22:21; 1 Tim. 3:15

Introduction:

- A. God in his wisdom has ordained three great institutions. Each separate of the other, yet complimenting each other. Each has unique role to play in God's scheme of things for the overall welfare of mankind. While, some cases, their roles may overlap somewhat, neither should infringe upon the basic role of the other.
- B. Let us look at the three institutions and their roles and benefit to mankind.

Discussion:

I. The Home

- A. Oldest institution (Gen. 2:18-25)
- B. Based on marriage — animals mate, humans marry.
 - 1. For companionship (Gen. 2:18).
 - 2. For procreation (Gen. 1:28).
 - 3. To provide legitimate sexual pleasure and fulfilment. (1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- C. Basic relationships of home — husband/wife, parent/child (Col. 3:18-21)
- D. Basic responsibilities of the home — provide for needs of its members.
 - 1. Physical, economic, and social (1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
 - a. Includes food, clothing and shelter.
 - b. Includes exercise, recreation and health care.
 - 2. Mental and spiritual development of Children. (Eph. 6:4).
- E. Some extensions of the home: School, community, social services.

II. The State

- A. Ordained of God. (Rom. 13:1-5).
 - 1. No specific form of government.
 - 2. Christians submit to all government (1 Pet. 2:13, 14).
- B. Basic role of state.
 - 1. To enact civil ordinances.
 - 2. Insure an orderly society.
 - 3. Protect society of law-breaker.
 - 4. Punish evil doers.

III. The Church

- A. All Christians added to universal church (Acts 2:47).
- B. All Christians to join selves to local church. (Acts 9:26).
- C. The role of the local church.
 - 1. Provide for assemblies for worship and edification (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 11:17ff)
 - 2. Provide spiritual oversight and training. (Eph 4:11-12)
 - 3. Provide and support evangelism (Phil. 4:15).
 - a. To save the lost of the world.
 - b. To edify the church. (Eph. 4:15-16).
 - 4. Discipline its members (1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3).
 - 5. Limited relief of needy saints. (Acts 11:28-30; 1 Tim. 5:16).

Conclusion:

- A. Christians support each:
 - 1. Home with honest employment (Eph. 4:28)
 - 2. State with taxes (Rom. 13:6, 7)
 - 3. Church with free-will offerings (2 Cor. 9:7)
- B. Each has unique role to fulfill for our benefit.
- C. Neither should usurp nor accept the role of the other.
 - 1. Church cannot raise your children or exercise civil authority.
 - 2. State should not take over your home nor the church's role.
 - 3. Home cannot become a church, nor take over role of government.