

## LESSON 6

### . . . HIGHER AUTHORITIES (POWERS)

## HIGHER AUTHORITIES (POWERS)

ROMANS 13:1

[Identity of These Higher Authorities - Sphere of Activity and Responsibility  
Relating to Each Other - The Believers Within These Institutions](#)

### INTRODUCTION

God the Wise Master Builder, in order to carry out and accomplish His purposes, created and ordained **THREE INSTITUTIONS**. Each of these three institutions, under God is SOVEREIGN. By this I mean, each of these Institutions, under God, is the SUPREME/ HIGHEST AUTHORITY in its sphere of activity and responsibility. The mantle of authority upon each of these three Institutions is invested in the ones designated by God to exercise this authority from within each of these Institutions.

It is my intent, under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, to show from the Bible, God's Holy Word, the truth of the statement in the above paragraph. And secondly, to show the Believer's place within and their relationship to these Higher Authorities/Institutions. The approach will be according to the following outline.

1. **Identity of These Higher Authorities**
2. **Sphere of Activity and Responsibility of Each of These Higher Authorities**
3. **How These Higher Authorities Relate to Each Other**
4. **The Believer's Place and Relationship Within These Institutions.**

## PART I

### **THE IDENTITY OF THESE HIGHER AUTHORITIES**

**QUESTION:** What are these three Institutions that God has created and ordained, which under Him are Higher Authorities in their individual sphere of activity and responsibility?

In answer to this question we see from the following Scriptures that the **FIRST** of these three sovereign Institutions created and ordained by God is the **FAMILY**.

**Genesis 1:27-28**, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion . . . "

**Genesis 2:18,21-25**, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him . . . And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam 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, Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

**Genesis 9:1**, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

**Psalms 127:3-5**, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

**Joshua 24:15**, ". . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

**I Corinthians 11:3,8-12**, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God . . . For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God."

From these Scriptures we see that the basis and foundation of the society of man as created by God IS **THE FAMILY**.

Secondly, we see that the FAMILY consists of a man, as the head of the family; a woman, who is the wife of the man and his helper; and children.

Thirdly, families were separate, independent of each other, being SELF-RULED and having dominion. This was a period in man's history when it was truly right to say, "Let your conscience be your guide." You see, man (Adam and Eve) was created in the image of God in righteousness and true holiness.

**Genesis 1:26-28** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion

over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

**Genesis 5:1**, This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him . . .

**Genesis 9:6**, Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

**Ephesians 4:24**, And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

In this state of righteousness and true holiness, man's conscience was a perfect guide, therefore, man had within himself the ability to rule, that is to direct his own steps and be in perfect harmony with God, his Creator.

Then one day, Adam and Eve ignored their conscience and did not follow its direction that would have kept them in harmony with God. The result of not following the dictates of their conscience, were they disobeyed God and **became sinners**. Now they were no longer righteous and holy, which meant that their conscience was no longer an infallible guide.

The evidence of man's fallen condition is seen in Cain killing his brother (Genesis 4:8) and in the following Scriptures.

**Genesis 4:8**, "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

**Genesis 6:5**, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

**Genesis 6:12**, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence."

**Genesis 8:21**, ". . . the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

**Psalms 14:1-3**, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are all corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not one."

**Romans 3:10**, "As It is written, There is none righteous, no not one."

**Jeremiah 10:23**, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

Now, since man in his fallen condition did not have within himself the ability of self-rule, that is to say, the ability to do what was morally right and godly; the ability to direct his ways in harmony with God, his Creator, God for the purpose of bringing structure and order into society, CREATED and ORDAINED the **SECOND** of these three sovereign Institutions that is **GOVERNMENT**.

**GOVERNMENT** being defined as having supreme authority to give direction and have control as ordained and defined by God.

Whereas, before man fell from his original state of holiness and righteousness, each FAMILY was sovereign, self-ruled and in complete harmony with God, in his fallen condition man is now to be ruled and directed from without. Now he is to be governed by **LAW**.

The LAW both instructs, gives direction, sets the standard for behavior and administers punishment, when the LAW is disobeyed.

In Genesis 9:1-6 we have the beginning of **GOVERNMENT**.

**Genesis 9:1-6, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them. Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man."**

In this passage we see instructions and regulations being given to Noah by God and the death penalty is instituted as punishment for the killing of another person.

**The first form of government**, under God, we see from Chapters 9 through 60 of the Book of Genesis and the Book of Job was **administered by the Patriarchs** - Noah, Shem, Terah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Job. These Patriarchs were the head of their extended family which was made up of several generations of their descendants and their servants and their servants' families. They were the supreme authority, under God, over all spiritual, military and civil matters within this extended family.

**In the heathen world**, that is, those who had rebelled against God's authority, at first functioned under this same form of government, but very early these extended families began to be joined together **establishing kingdoms, with a king as the supreme authority**.

In the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges we see **Prophets/Judges taking the place of the family Patriarch** as the supreme authority, under God's direction as the dispensator of the Law in spiritual, military and civil matters. There is Moses, Joshua, etc. with Samuel as the last of the Prophets/Judges/Rulers. <

Then in the Books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles we see that the **MILITARY AND CIVIL matters in Israel came under the supreme rule and authority of Kings**. King Saul being the first King of Israel. **SPIRITUAL matters were under the authority of God's Prophets**, such Prophets as Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, etc, and the **Priests** who ministered in the Temple.

Next, God dispersed His people and brought them under the rule and authority of heathen Kings and governments. **These heathen governments have the supreme authority over military and civil matters.**

Now to this day, Gods' people are still dispersed among the nations and under some **form of heathen/worldly government**. **UNDER GOD'S RULE**, these nations through their government have the supreme authority over military and civil matters.

**Daniel 4:17, "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the MOST HIGH RULETH in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."**

**2 Chronicles 20:6, "And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?"**

Now after the seventy (70) years of captivity in Babylon, the Israelites who returned to Israel came back under the spiritual authority of the Prophets and Temple Priests who were the dispensators of the Law of Moses. John the Baptist was the last of these Old Testament Prophets. The Jews who were dispersed among the nations established synagogues with a Priest who was the spiritual authority and the dispensator of the Law of Moses.

With the coming, death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ we have the **THIRD** sovereign Institutions/Higher authority being created and ordained by Father God - **THE CHURCH**.

**Matthew 16:16,18-19, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."**

**Colossians 1:18, "And He (Christ) is the Head of the Body, the Church . . . "**

**Ephesians 1:22-23, "And hath put all things under His (Christ's) feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all."**

**1 Corinthians 12:13A, 27**, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body . . . Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular."

**Titus 2:11-13**, "For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

**Colossians 2:2B**, "(Christ) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

**The Church**, which is the **physical Body of Christ on earth today**, is the dispensator of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ and has the supreme authority, under Christ who is its head, in **SPIRITUAL MATTERS**.

**CONCLUSIONS:** God has created and ordained the **FAMILY, GOVERNMENT, AND THE CHURCH**, under Himself, as the Highest Authority/Sovereign in their own sphere of activity and responsibility. They have in their own sphere of activity and responsibility the supreme authority to rule, to instruct, to warn and to correct God's people, who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, His only Son our Lord.

Every person in the kingdom of God here on earth is a part of a Family, a member of a local Church and under some form of Government.

The Bible instructs us to be in submission to and obey the Higher Authorities. **WHY?** Because we need them. We need their authority over us.

**Romans 13:1**, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (authorities). For there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God."

**Jeremiah 10:23**, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

## **PART II** ***SPHERE OF ACTIVITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH OF THESE HIGHER AUTHORITIES***

### **Activities and Responsibilities of these Three Higher Authorities**

In Part I, we identified from the Bible, three Higher Authorities, sovereign Institutions, which God created and ordained. These three sovereign Institutions are the **FAMILY, the GOVERNMENT, and the CHURCH**.

In summary, the **FAMILY** as ordained by God to be a sovereign/ higher authority is made up of a man, who is the head of the family, a woman, who is his wife and

help mate (helper), and a child or children. **The Family is the basic unit and foundation of our society.**

The **GOVERNMENT** as created and ordained by God is the dispensator of the Civil Law and has sovereign/supreme authority, under God, in civil and military matters.

The **CHURCH** was created and ordained by God to be the dispensator of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ, having sovereign, supreme authority in moral/spiritual matters, under Christ's rule, who is the Head of the Church.

God created and ordained these three HIGHER AUTHORITIES, giving them sovereign/supreme authority in their sphere of responsibility and activity. **WHY?** Because **WE NEED THEM**. We need their authority over us. Amen?

### **SOVEREIGN ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY**

The **FAMILY** was the first of the three sovereign Institutions created and ordained by God, and as stated above is the basic unit and foundation of our society.

**FIRST** of all we want to see that **INHERENT** within the Family Institution's sovereign authority is the right of **MARRIAGE AND BRINGING FORTH CHILDREN**.

The FAMILY has its beginning when a man and a woman through the bonds of matrimony become husband and wife and is completed when a child or children are added, either through the union of husband and wife, or by adoption.

**QUESTION:** What is marriage?

**Marriage**, as ordained and instituted by God is a life long union between a man and a woman, one man to one woman and one woman to one man. Not one man with just any woman or women, but one man with one woman, his wife.

Although the sexual union is an important function of marriage, between husband and wife, and is the only divinely approved context for the exercise of sex, sexual union alone, does not constitute marriage, or the marriage union.

**Genesis 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."**

**1 Corinthians 6:15-18, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh . . . Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."**

**1 Corinthians 7:2-4, "Nevertheless to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."**

Jesus stated His concept of marriage in Matthew 19:5.

**"And (Jesus) said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain (the two of them) shall be one flesh."**

**QUESTION:** Is marriage a bonding/union of two equals? Were men and women created as equals?

The answer is **YES and NO.**

**Note: Unequal does not mean inferior.**

In the Kingdom of God men and women are equal. Likewise in their need for each other they are equal. However, in the physical world, as to their physical being and their role in life they are not equal. Refer to the following passages from the Bible.

**Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."**

**1 Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel and being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."**

**1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God . . . For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."**

**1 Corinthians 11:11, "Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord."**

**From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that God in His wisdom did not create a man and woman equal. God made them different, each having a special role in life and work.**

Therefore, in the marriage union the man and woman are not regarded as co-equal partners. The one complements and completes the other simply because they are not equal. No man is equal to any woman, and no woman is equal to any man!

**Men and women were created in such a way to COMPLETE each other.** The woman's constitution is molded upon that of man. It is not like his. The woman



was created to complement and complete man, not to **COMPETE** with him. Man was created to be the head of the woman and the woman as the responder.

God, therefore, created a woman to complete man and man to complete a woman. They equally need each other to be complete.

Marriage, then, is a man being made complete by his wife and the woman being made complete by her husband.

**Matthew 19:5c, ". . . and they twain shall be one flesh."**

**Genesis 5:2, "Male and female created He them and blessed them and called THEIR NAME ADAM."**

The marriage of a man and a woman, as stated above, is the beginning of the family unit. A child or children make the Family complete.

**Psalm 127:3-5, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are the children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."**

Marriage in addition to bringing completeness to the man and woman, is, also, God's ordained means by which the Family is to be established and the world is to be populated.

**Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth."**

**Children** complete the Family Unit which was created and ordained by God as a Higher Authority having sovereign authority over its activities and responsibilities.

Now, concerning other activities and responsibilities which are solely delegated to the Family, of which, **BRINGING up their children in the ways of our Lord God is PRIMARY AND OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.**

**Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your CHILDREN to wrath: but BRING THEM UP in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."**

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY unto thy CHILDREN. and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Refer also, to Deuteronomy 11:18-21.)**

**Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a CHILD in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart it."**

**2 Timothy 3:15**, "And that from a CHILD thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Children need to be **DILIGENTLY TAUGHT** the Word of God as recorded in the Holy Scriptures/Bible.

In addition, they need **PROPER CORRECTION** as part of their training.

**Hebrews 12:6-11**, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

**QUESTION:** What is proper correction which brings about the peaceable fruit of righteousness?

**First** of all children must have **fixed/set boundaries** and understand that to **trespass** those boundaries will bring **correction** upon them.

**Genesis 2:17**, "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

**Secondly** the correct form of correction is **the use of the rod** upon the rear of the child and this being done as soon **as possible after his disobedience**.

**Proverbs 13:24**, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early, quickly).

**Proverbs 10:13**, ". . . but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding."

**Proverbs 23:13**, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."

(**Note:** the word "beat" in this Scripture means to **overcome or a stroke or blow applied many times not with brutality but with persistence** until the child is overcome and conquered.)

**Proverbs 19:18**, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

The following Scriptures show the **peaceable fruit of righteousness** which proper correction brings forth.

**Proverbs 22:15**, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

**Proverbs 23:14**, "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

**Proverbs 29:15**, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

**Proverbs 29:17**, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea he shall give delight unto thy soul."

In addition to the responsibility and sovereign authority inherent in the Family Institution, to marry, to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, to educate and train, discipline and correct their children, there are also, the sovereign activities and responsibility **to give their children in marriage, and that of work.**

Concerning the sovereign/supreme authority of the Family Institution, as to the **giving of their children in marriage**, we see this being instituted by Father God, when He brought Eve to Adam, giving her to him in marriage. Likewise, we see this activity and responsibility being carried out when it was time for Isaac and them later for Jacob to take a wife, and there are also other Biblical examples of this activity and responsibility being carried out.

**Genesis 2:22**, "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and BROUGHT her unto the man."

**Genesis. chapter 24**

**Genesis, chapter 29**

**Exodus 3:21**, "And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter."

**Esther 2:5-8 (8)**, ". . . Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women."

We see, also in a spiritual sense, in two Corinthians 11:2, this activity and responsibility being put into practice. In this Scripture passage, the Apostle Paul, as the spiritual father of the believers at Corinth espoused them, his spiritual children, to Christ.

**2 Corinthians 11:2**, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

Now concerning the sovereign/supreme authority of the Family Institution over **work and the activity and responsibility of working**, we see this being established by Father God, in the Garden of Eden, as recorded in Genesis, Chapter 2, verse 15. We also see, that as the number of families increased that they had **different work to perform.**

**Genesis 2:15**, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him in the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

**Genesis 3:23**, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden to till the ground from whence he was taken."

**Genesis 4:2**, "And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground."

**Genesis 4:20-22**, "And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. " And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer (craftsman) in brass, and iron . . . "

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul **instructs the believers in Thessalonica to be about their work** and to Timothy, Paul writes concerning the principle, that **God's provision for His children is normally through work.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:11**, "And that ye study to be quite, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

**1 Timothy 4:8**, "But if any provide not for his own and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

For further insight into the activity and responsibility of work refer to the following list of Scriptures.

**Proverbs 19:15; 13:11; 12:11; 10:14; 14:23; 1 Timothy 5:13; Ecclesiastes 10:18; 2:24; 3:13;**

**Psalms 128:1-2; 104:23-24; Ezekiel 16:49.**

**CONCLUSIONS: THE FAMILY** as a sovereign Institution has inherently, from God, Who has all authority and is all sovereign, the supreme authority over and the responsibility of:

- **marriage,**
- **conceiving and birthing children (be fruitful and multiply),**
- **educating and training those children,**
- **disciplining and correcting those children,**
- **giving their children in marriage, and**
- **work.**

These activities and responsibilities which are inherently a part of the Family

Institution and over which the Family has sovereign/supreme authority are to be **carried out according to the standards of God, as set forth by God in the Bible.**

## **SOVEREIGN ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH**

Now since, THE CHURCH is the dispensator of the Grace of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ (He, who is the Living Word and having given us the written Word through the Holy Spirit, and therefore, God's standard according to which THE FAMILY is to order and carry out their activities and responsibilities), let us discuss the **INHERENT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH** as a sovereign Institution created and ordained by God as a Higher Authority.

These **inherent activities and responsibilities** over which the Church has sovereign authority are set forth by Jesus in the **GREAT COMMISSION**.

**THE GREAT COMMISSION** as given by The Lord Jesus Christ is set forth in the following Scriptures from the Bible.

**Matthew 28:19-20**, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . . "

**Mark 16:15-18**, ". . . Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

**Luke 24:47**, ". . . repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

**John 20:21,23**, ". . . as My Father hath sent me, even so send I you . . . Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

**Acts 1:8**, ". . . ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

**First** of all, before we consider the activities and responsibilities of the Church as set forth in the Great Commission, we need to consider the **question, WHAT IS THE CHURCH?**

A very **broad definition of the Church**, sees the Church as a God created and ordained institution/body of which Jesus is the Head and through which the Gospel is preached and believers are nurtured.

**Ephesians 1:22**, "And bath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,"

**Colossians 1:18**, "And He is the head of the body. the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

**John 15:5**, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

**Colossians 1:28**, "(Christ) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Let us develop a more **specific definition of THE CHURCH**.

A. Let us begin with a literal definition of the Greek word **ekklesia**, since, the English word church in the New Testament is a translation of this Greek word (except in Acts 19:37). **Ekklesia** is a compound word. It is a combination of **ek**, out of: and **klesis**, **a calling out or called out assembly**.

B. Before and during the time of Christ and the 1st century Church the **first usage of the word ekklesia** referred to **the assembly, the lawful body of citizens who were the governing body** in the different cities, assembled as a functioning town counsel. We see an example of this in Acts 19:39.

**"But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly (ekklesia).**

C. In the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament written 285 - 247 B.C.) we see that **ekklesia** was used to **designate the assembly of Israelites**, assembled/gathered together at Mount Sina to receive God's instructions.

**Acts 7:38**, "This is he, that was in the church (ekklesia) in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in mount of Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us."

D. In Acts 19:21-32 (32) we see the **assembly of a riotous mob**, assembled for the purpose of trying Paul.

**verse 32**, "Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly (ekklesia) was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together."

E. **Ekklesia** from meaning and usage of the word is **the assembly, the called out ones, gathered together to carry out some specific function**.

F. **THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH** (*ekklesia*) is a **body** or an **assembly/congregation**, made up of the citizens of the kingdom of God (those in Christ Jesus, being called out of the world and called into the kingdom of God) **who are assembled, gathered together, congregated to carry out the specific functions of the BODY as seen in the GREAT COMMISSION**, under the direction of Jesus, who is the head.

G. The **LOCAL NATURE of the church** (*ekklesia*) is seen in the following Scriptures. **Note, specifically**, that the church mentioned in each of these passages had **a specific location or address**.

**Romans 16:1,5**, "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church at Cenchrea . . . Like wise greet the church that is in their house . . ."

**1 Corinthians 1:2**, "unto the church of God which is at Corinth"

**Colossians 4:15,16**, "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans . . ."

**Galatians 1:2,22**, "And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia . . . And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judea."

**Acts 13:1**, "Now there was in the church that was at Antioch . . ."

**1 Corinthians 16:19**, "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

**Hebrews 2:12**, "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."

H. **THE ENGLISH WORD CHURCH** comes from the **Greek word (*kuriakon*)**, which has the meaning of **belonging to the Lord**.

I. The ***ekklesia* never** refers to a **building** or to a **denomination** in the New Testament. When houses or structures were built for the assembling of those belonging to the Lord, they were called ***kuriake*, "the Lord's house"**.

J. **CONCLUSIONS:**

- **The *ekklesia*, or the NT Church is the body of Christ, which is made up of *kuriakon*, those belonging to the Lord, through the new birth in Jesus Christ.**
- **The *ekklesia* is local in nature and therefore is not universal.**

- **The Universal Church/Body of Christ is a New Testament concept only as it refers to the body of believers, the kuriakon, those who belong to the Lord, and is not the ekklesia (body of Christ).**
- **The ekklesia, since it is the body of Christ, is the physical, visible manifestation of Christ on earth today.**
- **Also, we might add, that when one is born again. he becomes a member of a local ekklesia (Church). Thus you do not join the ekklesia, a local church, you become a part of it when you become a child of God.**

**1 Corinthians 12:13,27, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body (the church, the body of Christ) . . . Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."**

**Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."**

- **The Church, the ekklesia, is not an organization. But is the living, breathing, moving body of Christ - a Living Organism. It is the Family of God, our extended Family. The members of the Church are inter-dependent upon each other. accountable to each other and are responsible for each other.**

**Romans 12:5, So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.**

**Ephesians 5:21, Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.**

**Philippians 2:4, Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

**QUESTION:** When is the Church a **FUNCTIONING CHURCH**? or When is the Church in a position to carry out the mandates, that is to say, its activities and responsibilities, as set forth in the Great Commission?

In answer to this question we see Paul and Barnabus on their first missionary journey (Acts, chapters 13-14) going through Asia Minor **establishing churches and instructing** the new believers in these infant churches. Then on their return journey to Antioch we see Paul and Barnabus returning to those churches which they had established and **setting them in order by ORDAINING ELDERS in each of them.**

**Acts 14:23, "And when they had ordained them elders in every church . . . Also, the Apostle Paul in Titus 1:5 instructs Titus to **ORDAIN ELDERS in every city, thereby SETTING THINGS IN ORDER.****



**"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."**

Now in Acts 20:17-38 we find the Apostle Paul speaking to the elders of the church of Ephesus and in verse 28, he defines for them the duties and responsibilities of elders.

**Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you OVERSEERS. TO FEED the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood."**

The ELDERS then, were to be OVERSEERS OF THE FLOCK (CHURCH), establishing the **OVERSIGHT MINISTRY** of the Church.

**Hebrews 13:17** speaks of the **Elders**, the overseers, rulers of the Church as having the **function of watching over the souls, or the spiritual life of the believers, thus defining the nature of the OVERSIGHT MINISTRY.**

**"Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."**

A **Church** then is a **FUNCTIONING CHURCH** when it is **set in order** through the **ORDAINING OF ELDERS** in that Church and thereby establishing the **OVERSIGHT MINISTRY to WATCH** for the souls of the members of the Church, and is therefore, overseeing the activities of the Church and the spiritual life of the members and families of the Church, **as set forth in the Great Commission and other Scriptures.**

**Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to OBSERVE all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . . "**

**Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, TO FEED the church of God, which he bath purchased with His own blood."**

**Luke 24:47, ". . . repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."**

**2 Timothy 2:25-26, "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God per-adventure (maybe) will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."**

**John 20:23. "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."**

**James 5:14-15**, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save (heal) the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

**Hebrews 13:7**, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." (NIV)

From these Scriptures we **discern and conclude that a functioning Church**, under the oversight of the Elders is to:

- **TEACH** the members to **OBSERVE** (that is to say) **TO DO** those things which Jesus said for them to do;
- **FEED** the flock the spiritual food of the Word of God;
- **TEACH** that **REPENTANCE** delivers one from the bondage of the devil;
- **PRONOUNCE** upon the repentant believer that their sins have been forgiven (removed);

**1 John 1:9**, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- **WITHHOLD** the pronouncement of sins forgiven from the impenitent, unrepentant believer;
- **ANOINT** with oil and pray for those believers who are sick;
- Elders to be an **EXAMPLE** of Christian virtue for the members of the Church.

This **Oversight Ministry is carried out** by the elders of the Church according to **Colossians 1:28**.

(Christ) "Whom we **PREACH**, **WARNING** every man, and **TEACHING** every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

**QUESTION:** Why does the **FAMILY** and its members **need the of the Oversight Ministry of the Church?**

To answer this question, let me ask another one.

**QUESTION:** Is the **soul of the person** who is in Christ Jesus (a born again child of God) **competent to oversee itself**, that is to say, always make correct moral judgments? **I THINK NOT.**

**Jeremiah 10:23**, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

**Genesis 3:1-6** is an example of what happens when one relies on their own judgment where moral issues are concerned, I have no doubt that **Eve felt she**

**was competent to judge situations for herself** so that when she found herself in this confrontation with the serpent it never entered her mind to seek out Adam for advice and direction.

**Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 ¶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. Genesis 3:1-6**

**Judges 21:25** sums up very simply this question of the need each believer has of oversight. A studious reading of the Book of Judges will show **the misery and trouble which came to Israel** when they had no one to oversee and lead them. **"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in HIS OWN EYES."**

Our Father God in His wisdom has **established the "Oversight Ministry"** through His Son Jesus Christ. A ministry which He carries out personally by means of the Word and through His body, the Church. It is His desire "to finish His (the Father's) work."

**1 Peter 2:25**, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but ye are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

**John 17:17**, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

**Hebrews 13:17**, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls . . ."

**Acts 20:28**, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with His own blood."

**Philippians 1:6**, ". . . He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it (literally, will bring it to completion) until the day of Jesus Christ."

**THE OVERSIGHT MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH** is the ministry of the Word of God for the saving of the souls of those who have by faith received Jesus Christ as their Savior and are in the kingdom of God.

**James 1:21, ". . . receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect (mature) throughly furnished unto all good works."**

The "oversight ministry" in the local body of Christ **is the ministry of Jesus** finishing the work His Father sent Him to do. A ministry He wants to work in the heart of each and every believer, so that, He can work through them the works of Father God. The works of the Father which He desires to work through each believer are the same works that He, Himself, did during His earthly ministry.

These activities and responsibilities of the Church through its Oversight Ministry, to be the dispensator of the Grace of God in Jesus to the flock, is inherently a sovereign function of the Church as a Higher Authority. The Oversight Ministry of the Church, as we have already seen, is **intrinsically embedded** in and is set forth in **THE GREAT COMMISSION**, given by the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus is established by Jesus.

There is more to the Great Commission than setting forth the activities of the Church's Oversight Ministry.

Let us examine the remainder of the Great Commission to see the rest of the activities and responsibilities inherently included therein, and which, therefore are under the supreme, sovereign authority of the Church as a Higher Authority.

**Matthew 28:19. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost":**

**Mark 16:16-18, ". . . Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**

**John 20:21, ". . . as My Father hath sent me, even so send I you . . . "**

**Acts 1:8, ". . . ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."**

In these Scriptures Jesus sets forth the **OUTREACH MINISTRY** of the Church.

The Outreach Ministry of the Church sees the Church through its members reaching out beyond itself to be **witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ** to a world which is dead in its trespasses and sins.

- **The Gospel, the Good News that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself and that whosoever believeth in Jesus**

would be saved is to be preached (proclaimed) beginning in their own neighborhood and reaching out from there to the whole world.

- They are to deliver those who are oppressed of the devil by casting out demons and laying hands on the sick.

The OUTREACH MINISTRY of the Church is the **ministry of the Word of God** for the salvation of those living in spiritual darkness and who are on the broad path leading to eternal destruction in the lake of fire.

**Romans 3:23**, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

**Romans 5:6-9**, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

**Acts 16:30-31**, (The jailer at Philippi asks Paul and Silas), "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

**John 3:16**, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

**Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that (faith) not of yourselves: it (that faith) is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast."

**Romans 10:17**, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

In addition to the Oversight Ministry and Outreach ministry, the Church, also, has a ministry of being the **CONSCIENCE** of the community, state and nation, by speaking out against sin, and being an example of Christian virtue, as seen in the following Scriptures.

**Ephesians 5:10-11**, "Proving (demonstrating) what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather REPROVE them."

**John 16:8-11**, "And when He is come (the Holy Spirit), He will REPROVE the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they

believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

**THE CHURCH** is a sovereign Institution, created and ordained by God and must remain strong and faithful to its activities and responsibilities as the **DISPENSATOR** of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus, if THE FAMILY and GOVERNMENT ARE going to remain strong, sovereign Institutions, and if the world is going to be evangelized.

**These activities and responsibilities** which are inherently a part of the Church and over which the Church has sovereign/supreme authority are to be carried out according to the standards of God, **as set forth by God in the Bible.**

### **SOVEREIGN ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECULAR/CIVIL OR MILITARY GOVERNMENT**

The secular/civil or military GOVERNMENT is the third of the three sovereign institutions or Higher Authorities created and ordained by God. (Refer to pages 3-5 of Higher Authorities, Part One, and review the need for governmental oversight, that is to say, oversight from outside of ones self and for the development of government.)

Since, it is a fact, that **God's children are dispersed among the nations of the world** and are under some form of secular, civil or worldly government, let us now, discuss the inherent activities and responsibilities of the GOVERNMENT, as a sovereign institution created and ordained by God, and being under God's rule as expressed in Daniel 4:17.

**Daniel 4:17, "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the MOST HIGH RULETH in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."**

These inherent activities and responsibilities of the **CIVIL GOVERNMENT** are seen in the following passages of the Bible.

**Romans 13:3-6, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must need be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute (taxes) also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing."**

**1 Peter 2:13-14, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as**

unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

**Matthew 22:21**, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

The God given and thus the **inherent activities and responsibilities** of the GOVERNMENT as set forth in these passages from the Bible have to do with protecting the citizens under that government from those who would cause them harm. Therefore, government has the inherent supreme authority from God to **MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER**.

In order to maintain Law and Order, the inherent governmental activities and responsibilities include:

- **making laws,**
- **enforcing those laws,**
- **maintaining a Police force to enforce those laws,**
- **maintaining armed forces to protect the sovereignty of the nation,**
- **punishing those who break the laws, and**
- **collecting taxes to support these functions.**

These activities and responsibilities which are inherently a part of the government and over which the government has sovereign/supreme authority are to be **carried out according to the standards of God, as set forth by God in the Bible**.

### **PART III** **THE RELATIONSHIP OF THESE THREE HIGHER AUTHORITIES TO EACH OTHER.**

Now before we take up the question of, How these three Higher Authorities, the FAMILY, the CHURCH, and the GOVERNMENT are to relate to one another, let us review their **INHERENT** ACTIVITIES and RESPONSIBILITIES.

The **INHERENT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY** as a sovereign institution and Higher Authority includes:

- **marriage,**
- **conceiving and birthing children,**
- **educating and training those children,**

- **disciplining and correcting those children,**
- **giving their children in marriage, and**
- **working.**

The **INHERENT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH** as a sovereign institution and Higher Authority includes:

- **overseeing the spiritual life of the members and families of the church - preaching (proclaiming Jesus as Savior and Lord), warning the members of the consequence of sin, and teaching the Word (wisdom) of God. the Bible;**
- **reaching out through its members beyond itself to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ to a world which is living in spiritual darkness and on the broad path leading to eternal destruction in the lake of fire;**
- **being the conscience of the community, state and nation.**

The **INHERENT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT** as a sovereign institution and Higher Authority includes:

- **making laws (for the protection of its citizens),**
- **enforcing those laws (maintaining Law and Order),**
- **maintaining a Police Force to enforce those laws,**
- **maintaining armed forces to protect their sovereignty as a nation,**
- **punishing those who break the laws, and**
- **collecting taxes to support these governmental functions.**

Let us **NOTE TWO THINGS** concerning the activities and responsibilities of these three Higher Authorities.

- **The principles of God as written into the heart of man and set forth in the Bible is to be the standard for administering the activities and responsibilities of these Higher Authorities.**
- **The activities and responsibilities of these sovereign institutions are not necessarily limited to their inherent activities and responsibilities, as long as, these additional activities and responsibilities DO NOT usurp the authority of one of the other Higher Authorities.**



Let us, now, consider the question as to, **how these three Higher Authorities, THE FAMILY, THE CHURCH, and THE GOVERNMENT are to RELATE to one another.**

First of all, we need to be reminded, that each of these institutions in their particular sphere of activity and responsibility have the sovereign, supreme, absolute, final authority as a Higher Authority.

This means, that the **FAMILY is not subject to or under the Church or the Government** in its sphere of activity and responsibilities.

Likewise, the **CHURCH is not subject to or under the Family or the Government** in its sphere of activity and responsibility.

Also, then, the **GOVERNMENT is not subject to or under the Family or the Church** in its sphere of activity and responsibility.

Each of these Higher Authorities are equal to each other, that is to say, **one Higher Authority is not higher and the others LESS HIGH.**

THEREFORE, their relationship to one another is **standing side by side, supporting and helping** each other to carry out their functions as a sovereign institution, by:

- **RECOGNIZING the inherent sovereignty of the authority of the others in their sphere of activity and responsibility, and**
- **SUBMITTING to the authority of the others in their sphere of activity and responsibility.**

THE **FAMILY**, is PRO Church and PRO Government. The **CHURCH** is PRO Family and PRO Government. THE **GOVERNMENT** is PRO Family and PRO Church.

Anything less is **out of God's Divine Order**, and brings about confusion, division, discord, dissension, rebellion and anarchy.

## **PART IV** ***THE BELIEVER'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THESE HIGHER AUTHORITIES***

In Part 4 of Higher Authorities we will discuss the BELIEVER'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP within the FAMILY, as a member of a CHURCH, and under the GOVERNMENT - these sovereign institutions created and ordained by God.

### **THE BELIEVER'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE FAMILY**

As we discussed in Part I, the Family is made up of a man, a woman - the wife of the man, and a child or children.

## THE GODLY MAN'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE FAMILY.

From the Bible we see that man's **PLACE** in the family is **established by the order of creation**. Man was first formed, or created by God and then the woman was created from the rib which God had taken from man.

**Genesis 2:7**, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed Unto his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

**Genesis 2:18, 21-23**, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet (helper) for him . . . And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam 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."

**1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9**, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God . . . The man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

**1 Timothy 3:13**, "For Adam was first formed then Eve."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the godly man is the HEAD of the family, under Christ, and has the **PLACE OF AUTHORITY**.

**Secondly**, the godly man's **RELATIONSHIP** to his wife is seen in the following Scriptures.

**Matthew 20:25-28**, "But Jesus called them (His disciples) unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant); And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (slave): even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many."

**Galatians 5:13**, "For, brethern, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (to gratify, indulge the flesh), **BUT BY LOVE SERVE (slave for) ONE ANOTHER.**"

**Ephesians 5:23,25,28-31,33**, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body . . . Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. For we are

members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be Joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh . . . Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself . . ."

Colossians 3:19, "Husbands love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

1 Corinthians 7:3-5, "Let the husband render unto his wife due benevolence: . . . likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud (deprive) ye not one the other that Satan tempt you not, for your incontinency (lack of self-control)."

1 Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

1 Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the godly man/husband in his

**RELATIONSHIP TO HIS WIFE** will:

- **TAKE THE HEADSHIP over his wife, being her covering and authority,**
- **SERVE her by providing for her needs, both physical and spiritual,**
- **GIVE HER HONOR AND RESPECT as his wife,**
- **LOVE her, even with the same selfless, self-sacrificing, self-denying LOVE with which Christ loves him.**

**Thirdly**, the godly man's **RELATIONSHIP, AS A FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN**, is seen in the following Scriptures.

Galatians 5:13, "For, brethern, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (to gratify, Indulge the flesh), **BUT BY LOVE SERVE (slave for) ONE ANOTHER.**"

Matthew 20:25-28. "But Jesus called them (His disciples) unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant)," And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be

your servant (slave):even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many."

Ephesians 6:4, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Isaiah 38:19, ". . . the father to the children shall make known the truth."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 20-25, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children. And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the Lord shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the lands he swore unto our fathers. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us."

Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early)."

Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

1 Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the godly father will **SERVE HIS CHILDREN IN LOVE**, by:

- **TEACHING** them the ways of God from the Bible, the Word of truth,
- **TRAINING AND TEACHING** them to WORK,
- **CORRECTING** them when they are disobedient,
- **PROVIDING** for their physical needs.

### **THE GODLY WOMAN'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE FAMILY**

From the following Scriptures the godly **WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE FAMILY** is established.

**Genesis 2:18**, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet (helper, someone to respond to him) for him."

**Genesis 2:22-23**, "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, because she was taken out of man."

**Genesis 3:20**, And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

**1 Corinthians 31:3, 7-9**, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God . . . the woman is the glory of the man. The man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**, " (Let) the wife (render due benevolence) unto her husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband . . . Defraud (deprive) ye not one the other . . . that Satan tempt you not, for your incontineny (lack of self control)."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **GODLY WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE FAMILY** is that of:

- **A HELPMATE (helper, responder), COMPLETING her husband,**
- **Being a WIFE to her husband, and**
- **the MOTHER of their children.**

**Secondly**, we discern from Ephesians 5:22 that the godly woman's **RELATIONSHIP** to her husband as a helpmate and responder to his God given headship and authority is that of **SUBMISSION**.

**Ephesians 5:22**, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

**SUBMISSION** for the godly wife means that she will submit to her God given **PLACE** in the family as her husband's helpmate, as a wife to her husband, and as a mother to their children.

And according to 1 Timothy 2:12, the godly wife will **NOT "USURP AUTHORITY"**, that is to say, **she will not try to take her husbands place and responsibilities** in and to the family upon herself.

**1 Timothy 2:12**, "But I suffer not a women to teach, NOR USURP AUTHORITY OVER THE MAN, but to be in silence (have an inward quietness)."

### **THE GODLY CHILD'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP IN THE FAMILY.**

Psalm 127:3 gives us a clear understanding as to the **PLACE CHILDREN HAVE IN THE FAMILY**. From this Scripture we discern that children are the **LORD'S INHERITANCE** and as such are His reward from the husband's and wife's relationship.

**Psalm 127:3**, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

The **RELATIONSHIP OF GODLY CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY** is seen in the following Scriptures.

**Deuteronomy 5:16**, "Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

**Malachi 1:6**, "A son honoreth his father . . ."

**Ephesians 6:1-2**, "Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise";

**Proverbs 23:22**. "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old."

**1 Timothy 5:4,8**, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God . . . But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

**Leviticus 19:32**, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **RELATIONSHIP OF CHILDREN WITHIN THE FAMILY** is to:

- **HONOR AND RESPECT their parents,**
- **OBEY their parents in all things,**
- **LISTEN to their parents and RECEIVE what they have to say,**
- **TAKE CARE of the parents when they are old, and**

- **SUPPORT their mother, if their father dies.**

### **THE BELIEVER'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS OF A CHURCH.**

The **PLACE OF THE BELIEVER IN THE CHURCH** is seen in the following Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 12:13**, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

**Romans 12:5**, "So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

**Ephesians 5:30-32**, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

**Ephesians 4:16**, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **PLACE OF BELIEVER'S IN THE CHURCH** is that of being members of:

- **THE BODY of Christ - a local Church,**
- **ONE ANOTHER in the Body, and**
- **JOINTS in the Church structure.**

The Believer's **RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH** is determined according to the following **FOUR GROUPINGS OF THE MEMBERS.**

#### **I. THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCH LEADERS TO THE OTHER MEMBERS**

This **RELATIONSHIP** is seen in these Scriptures.

**Matthew 20:25-28**, "But Jesus called them (His disciples) unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant); And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your

servant (slave):even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many."

**Galatians 5:13**, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (to gratify, indulge the flesh), **BUT BY LOVE SERVE (slave for) ONE ANOTHER.**"

**1 Peter 5:1-3**, "The Elders which are among you I exhort . . . Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples (examples) to the flock."

**(Note: The principle stated in this passage is applicable for all levels of authority in the Church.)**

**1 Corinthians 4:2**, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

**Deuteronomy 1:17**, "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **RELATIONSHIP OF THE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH** is that of:

- **LOVE** for the members of the Body motivating them to **SERVE** the members of the Body **WILLINGLY**,
- **FAITHFULLY** carrying out their responsibilities **WITHOUT RESPECT** of persons, and
- Being **EXAMPLES** of Christian virtue for the members of the Body to follow.

## **II. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH TO THE CHURCH LEADERS.**

This **RELATIONSHIP** is seen in these Scriptures.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**, "And we beseech you, brethern, to **KNOW** them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to **ESTEEM** them very highly **IN LOVE** for their work's sake."

**1 Timothy 5:17**, " Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double **HONOR**, especially they who labor in the Word and doctrine."



**Luke 10:16**, "He that HEARETH you (Church leaders) heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me."

**Hebrews 13:17**, "OBEY them that have the rule over you, and SUBMIT yourselves: for they watch for your souls. as they must give account. that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

**Hebrews 13:7**, "REMEMBER them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith FOLLOW, considering the end of their conversation (way of life)."

**1 Timothy 5:19**, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

**1 Timothy 5:18**, ". . . the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward."

**Galatians 6:6**, "Let him that is taught in the Word communicate (give, share) unto him that teacheth in all good things."  
(See, also, 1 Corinthians 9:9-14.)

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **RELATIONSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY TO THE LEADERS** in the Body is to:

- **HONOR and RESPECT** them because of their position, have a **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** (know them) with them,
- **LISTEN and RECEIVE** what they have to say,
- **OBEY and SUBMIT** to their instructions,
- **keep them in REMEMBRANCE**,
- **FOLLOW** their example,
- **NOT MURMUR or COMPLAIN** against them, to **FINANCIALLY SUPPORT** those leaders who are full time Church workers, and
- **PRAY, INTERCEDE, AND GIVE THANKS** for them.

**III. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH TO THE CHURCH BODY.**

This **RELATIONSHIP** is seen in these Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 12:18**, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the Body, as It hath pleased him."

**Ephesians 4:16**, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

**1 Corinthians 12:28**, "And God hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, HELPS, governments, diversities of tongues."

**Romans 12:6-8**, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry (serving), let us wait on our ministering (be about our serving): or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

**1 Corinthians 14:26**, "How is it then, brethern? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."

**1 Corinthians 14:12**, "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the Church."

**Hebrews 10:25**, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

**Acts 2:42**, "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

**Hebrews 2:12**, ". . . I will declare thy name (the name of Jesus) unto my brethern, in the midst of the Church will I sing praise unto thee."

**Matthew 18:19**, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH BODY** is to:

- **SUBMIT to the place where God has put them in the Body,**

- and in that place be a joint that is supplying according to the fulness of grace given (ability) by God, so that, the whole Body might be edified (built-up),
- **HELP** (The ministry of helps is for all members.) in any area, where help is needed, and **FAITHFULLY ASSEMBLE** together with the rest of the Body to worship and praise the Lord, to receive the Lord's Supper, receive instruction and teaching from the Word, to pray together, and for fellowship.

#### **IV. THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH CHURCH MEMBER TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.**

This **RELATIONSHIP** is seen in these Scriptures.

**Enhesians 5:21**, "Submitting yourselves one to another in fear of God."

**Philippians 2:3**, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

**Romans 12:10**, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."

**James 5:16**, "Confess your faults (weaknesses) one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

**Hebrews 3:13**, "But exhort one another daily . . ."

**Hebrews 10:25**, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

**Galatians 6:1-2**, "Brethern, if a man be overtaken in a fault (sin), ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ,"

**Galatians 6:10**, "As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

**Galatians 5:13**, "For, brethern, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (to gratify, indulge the flesh), **BUT BY LOVE SERVE** (slave for) **ONE ANOTHER.**"

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **RELATIONSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH TO ONE ANOTHER** is to:

- **SUBMIT** to each other by considering the other better than themselves and preferring them over self (accountable),
- **LOVE** each other with true affection,
- **ENCOURAGE** each other,
- be **OPEN** and **HONEST** with each other (transparent),
- **BEAR** (help support) each others burdens (load), and the bottom line,
- **SERVE** (be a servant, slave) **ONE ANOTHER WITH A SELFLESS, SELF-SACRIFICING, SELF-DENYING LOVE.**

### **THE BELIEVER'S PLACE AND RELATIONSHIP UNDER A WORLDLY, CIVIL, SECULAR GOVERNMENT.**

The Believer's **PLACE** under a worldly, secular, civil government is seen in the following Scriptures.

**Hebrews 11:13**, "These all died in faith . . . and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth."

**1 Peter 1:11**, "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning (pilgrimage) here in fear."

**Psalms 39:12**, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a sojourner, as all my fathers were."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **PLACE** of the Believer under the GOVERNMENT is that of **A SOJOURNER, A PILGRIM, A STRANGER.**

The Believer's **RELATIONSHIP** to the worldly, secular, civil government which he is under is seen in the following Bible passages.

**Romans 13:1,5**, "Let every soul be subject unto the Higher powers (authorities) . . . Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

**1 Peter 2:13-14**, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance (law, regulation) of man for the Lord's sake :whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

**Titus 3:1**, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

**Matthew 5:13-16**, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

From these Scriptures we discern and conclude that the **BELIEVERS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT** under which they find themselves is to:

- **be SUBJECT to and OBEY the laws which govern the community, state and nation,**
- **give THANKS for our government leaders and PRAY for them, and**
- **be an EXAMPLE of Christian virtue, as salt and light before those in the GOVERNMENT.**

**QUESTION?** Is there any place for protesting the established laws of government?

The answer is **yes, as long as**, it is done within the boundaries which have been established by government regulations.

**QUESTION:** Is there a place for civil disobedience in relationship to the ordinances/laws/regulations established by government?

In answer to this question, let us first of all be reminded that **GOD IS THE ESTABLISHER** of governments and **THEREFORE IS HIMSELF THE ESTABLISHMENT**.

How then are we who are the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, to respond to the establishment, which God ordained and created, and over which He is the Head and Ruler? Our response as we have seen from Romans 13:1 and 1 Peter 2:13-14 is to be that of **OBEEDIENCE TO THE LAWS OF THE GOVERNMENT**.

Secondly, let us be reminded that to **DISOBEY THE ORDINANCES OF MEN AND RESIST THE GOVERNMENT** through civil disobedience, whether it be passive or active resistance is, according to Romans 13:2, **A SIN AGAINST GOD**.

Now having said that, the **BIBLE GIVES AT LEAST FOUR EXAMPLES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE**; three of which God honored; the fourth God did not honor.

The first two of these examples of civil disobedience are seen in the book of Daniel.

In Daniel, chapter 3, we see the three Hebrew children disobeying the ordinance to bow down to and worship the golden image of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Secondly, in Daniel, chapter 6, we see Daniel disregarding the ordinance of the civil government, not to pray or make petition to anyone but the King.

The third act of civil disobedience which God honored is seen in the Book of Acts, chapters 4 and 5, where Peter and John, after having been ordered not to, continued teaching in the name of Jesus.

Now, in these three examples, **why did God honor their civil disobedience**, when in Romans 13:2 it specifically says to obey every ordinance.

The answer is seen in what we have already said, God is the Establishment, we are not to resist the ordinances of God, Thus **any law** which is made by man, by the civil government which is **in direct opposition to the Laws of God is to be resisted**.

**Acts 5:29, ". . . We ought to obey God rather than man."**

However, having said this, we must understand, that contrary to what some Christian leaders are saying, this Word of God in **Acts 5:29 is not giving Christians a license to commit acts of civil disobedience in instances where they feel or think that the law is unjust, or immoral**. In other words; **moral consciousness is not an excuse for civil disobedience, unless this moral conflict is based on the clear specific mandates of God's Word**.

In the case of the three Hebrew children the clear mandate of God for them and for us is that God, and **God alone is to be worshiped**.

With Daniel, as with all children of God, the Word mandates that we are to pray and make our **supplications unto God, who is the provider of all things**.

With Peter and John, the mandate of God was and still is to be **a witness of Jesus Christ and to do the works of Jesus in the name of Jesus**.

**Therefore where God has spoken in His Word, the Bible, we are to obey God, rather than man or the civil government. Thus any law made by man, or by the civil government which is in direct opposition to the law of God is to be resisted.**

In the fourth example of civil disobedience which is seen in Matthew 26:51-52, we see Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and the officers of the High Priest have come to arrest Him. In response, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of one

of the officers, at which point, **Jesus rebukes him. God did not honor this act of disobedience and violence by Peter.**

**In conclusion, these are exceptions and not the rule. The principle of the Bible is that we are to be subject to and in submission to all the ordinances of the civil government.**

#### **POSTSCRIPT**

It is my prayer for you that you will receive with an open heart that which has been set forth herein. For some of you the conclusions which we have discerned in these different areas may be a cultural shock, if so, I pray that you will go to God in prayer concerning these things and then go to the Bible and diligently search them out for yourselves.

Dear friends God is a God of order and the Bible clearly sets forth God's order for us if we faithfully search for the truth.

God is unchangeable, that which He has set forth in His Word, the Bible, is the same yesterday, today and forever His Word does not have a different meaning today than it did when He gave it. God says what He means and means what He says.

God is, also faithful to bless those who follow His order and walk in His ways.

**Psalm 81:8-16, "Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me: There shall no strange god (demon spirit) be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange God. I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide and I will fill it. But my people would not hearken to My voice; and Israel would none of me. SO I gave them up unto their own heart's lust: and they walked in their own counsels. Oh that My people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had WALKED IN MY WAYS! I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned My hand against their adversaries. The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto Him: but their time should have endured for ever. He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee."**

Dear friends, these verses from Psalm 81 are words of warning and of blessing. I beseech you in the name of Jesus to heed the warning and walk in God's ways as set forth in His Word, and then, open your mouth wide and receive the out pouring of His blessings.

**AMEN! THANK YOU JESUS.**