

# UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

## Developing a Biblical Worldview

### *How a Biblical Worldview Impacts the Way We See Society and Politics*

Introduction: This, the sixth sermon in our series on developing a Biblical worldview, deals with the disciplines of Society and Politics. The questions we intend to address are: "How should our society be structured?" and "How should it be governed?"

- I. Understanding the Purpose of Society
  - A. Simply defined, a society is a community, nation, or broad group of peoples having common traditions, institutions, and collective activities and interests.
  - B. From the Christian perspective, society consists of the family, the church, and the state. Some include the workplace as an important component as well.
  - C. Another critical aspect to the Christian perspective is the importance of the individual and his or her freedom to make choices.
  - D. The Christian sees the family as the keystone to society.
  - E. The Church has an equally important purpose in society, both externally to the world and internally to its members.
- II. Understanding the Purpose of Government and Politics
  - A. Human government was instituted by God to protect man's unalienable rights from mankind's sinful tendencies.
  - B. The basic purpose of government is to provide justice, freedom, and order.
  - C. The Secular Humanist and Marxist worldviews differ widely from the Biblical one.
    1. Humanists believe that Planet Earth is a single ecosystem which means that it is no longer feasible to arbitrarily divide it into separate states and hope that each one will somehow manage itself (i.e., one world government).
    2. *Manifesto 2000* calls for the creation of a world parliament.
    3. Marxism believes that the ideal is no state at all since government is seen as only a vehicle for maintaining class antagonism.
  - D. What the Bible says about government:
    1. Government is an institution established by God. (Genesis 9: 6)
    2. The Bible recognizes that government as an institution is sacred and that its rulers are ministers of God. (Romans 13: 1-4; Colossians 1: 16; Titus 3: 1)
    3. It is the Christian's duty to obey the state. (I Peter 2: 13-14)
    4. Since government is appointed by God, so long as it is serving the purpose for which God created it, the Christian shows allegiance to God by submitting to human government. (Acts 5: 29)
    5. Government should hold to God-ordained principles. (I Corinthians 14: 40)
    6. Government should be participatory so that Christian citizens can better influence the state to conform to God's will. (Proverbs 11: 11)
    7. As Christians we understand that power tends to corrupt, so a government that disperses power is better than one that gathers power into the hands of a few. (Isaiah 33: 22)

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.  
Genesis 2: 23-24

Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.  
Hebrews 13: 4

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.<sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;  
Romans 13: 1-3

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,<sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.  
I Peter 2: 13-14

Conclusion: What is the purpose of having a Biblical worldview when it comes to these two disciplines in particular? Can we really make a difference in society and change the political environment. The Bible tells us that we can if we live by Biblical principles. Having a Biblical worldview provides us with the means to do so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) The family is the basic building block of society. Why or why not. Explain.
- 2.) Read Deuteronomy 24: 5 and Ephesians 5: 24-25. How does God view the importance of establishing a meaningful relationship between husband and wife? Now read Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, 20-21; Joshua 4: 4-7; and Ephesians 6: 4. What role do parents play in the lives of their children?
- 3.) What is the primary role of the Church in society? Explain. Is there supporting Scriptures that come to mind?
- 4.) Explain how Genesis 9: 6 lays the foundation for civil government?
- 5.) What do you think is the logical result of the Secular Humanist worldview about government. Explain.
- 6.) Explain why the Scriptures listed in part II.D. of the outline instruct us to submit to the governing authorities.
- 7.) What does Isaiah 33: 22 say to us about the structure of government? What are the principles contained therein?

**WHY DO WE NEED A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW?**

**BEING PREPARED**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ...*  
 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;  
 1 Peter 3: 15

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