

Government According to the Bible

The 3rd Principle of Biblical Living

Sunday, May 22, 2022

The Word of God gives us principles to govern every area of our life. From human value, marriage and children, economics and work and play, Sabbath rest, to name a few. Here we will study the Biblical principles of government and how we should be organized as a society.

I. God Established Human Government

- A. The first record of applying law to members of society occurs just after the flood as God speaks to Noah in Genesis 9:5-7
 - 1. God institutes the death penalty for any beast or human who causes the death of another human being. As we saw in the first principle, human beings are made in God's image and are precious in His sight.
 - 2. God commands humans to be fruitful and populate the earth, and the implication in the context is in peace and safety.
- B. The basic laws of society are enumerated in the 10 Commandments, reiterating the covenant of marriage, of murder, and of worship of God and the general care of one's neighbor.

II. All Human Government is Under God's Authority

- A. God is the Supreme Authority of government and all truly legitimate government derives its power from a respect of God and submission to His ultimate authority.
 - 1. Romans 13:1—*for there is no authority except from God*
 - 2. Matthew 28:18—*all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*
 - 3. John 19:11—*you would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above*
 - 4. Proverbs 21:1—*the king's heart is a stream of water in the Lord's hand, He turns it whichever way He wishes*
 - 5. Isaiah 9:6—*...and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Everlasting Father*
 - 6. . . . *and many more*
- B. Daniel 2:20-21: ***Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;***

III. Human Government is a Blessing to God for the People

- A. Dominion over the earth has been given to human beings—it is made for them
- B. Satan deceived Adam and Eve, usurping their rule over the earth
 - 1. Satan's offer to give Jesus the kingdoms of this world was a legitimate offer—with a price
 - 2. Satan is the "god" of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - 3. In His Atonement Jesus restored authority and dominion to all who believe in Him for salvation and eternal life
 - 4. He gives wisdom to govern in righteousness and justice to those who believe
Deut 16:18-20, *"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
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“Preamble” of the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.