

## **DIVINE ESTABLISHMENT**

God has ordained certain laws for the survival and freedom of the human race. Anarchy exists when these laws are ignored. The laws of divine establishment provide the freedom to fulfill God's plan as ordained in the His divine decrees. They will work under many different types of government.

The laws of divine establishment are designed and directed toward both believer and unbeliever alike. They operate from the fall of man to the Second Advent, as well as in the Millennium with some modifications to be compatible with the perfect environment of the Millennium.

These laws directly affect freedom, civilization, authority, evangelism, spiritual growth, and help the perpetuation of the human race. They are as important to us as is the law of gravity. The laws of divine establishment define freedom in terms of privacy, property and authority. All systems of freedom function under some form of authority. Both the privacy of the individual and the function of legitimate authority are necessary for the function of human freedom. Therefore, the four divine institutions, volition, marriage, family, and nationalism are the basis for the laws of divine establishment.

Does all this sound familiar? Allow me to quote someone who said the same thing using very similar language.

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...

That is, of course, from our Declaration of Independence. There is much more but way too long to quote all of it here. If you read the list of grievances against the Crown near the end of the document, you can see even more similarities. Clearly, our forefathers understood this concept of divine establishment.

## **The Divine Institutions.**

**Volition** — The soul is prepared for us by God. It is the house for human life. The body is the house for the soul. The justice of God imputes human life to the soul; human life resides in the soul forever.

The soul is made up of self-consciousness, mentality, emotion, and volition as the authority of the soul. Human volition must have freedom and privacy for proper function. We must have privacy if we are to exercise our volition. We must have privacy for freedom. Divine establishment provides freedom and privacy for those who do not violate criminal law.

While people are not born equal or live in equality, they must have freedom of choice and the right to live in a free society pursuing a course of action compatible with their own aspirations or lack of the same. You have a right to go as far as your *abilities and motivations* will take you.

Variation in human ability, both inherent and acquired, does not preclude freedom and freedom of decision in adult persons. All normal persons have the option of positive or negative volition at God-consciousness, plus the freedom to accept or reject Jesus Christ at Gospel hearing. Freedom is the basis for true evangelism. Freedom is the normal sphere of function for the volition of the soul. Freedom cannot exist without privacy and authority. Therefore, the importance of establishment in human history is emphasized.

Is not human freedom under attack on the world today. Destroy human freedom and you can put a damper on the gospel.

**Marriage** — Monogamy, a permanent relationship between one man and one woman, is ordained of God.

**Gen 2:18-25** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**1 Cor 7:2** But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup> The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

When Jesus Christ created Adam He said, "not good that man should be alone." Therefore God provided the female. Their relationship, established in the garden, was continued after the fall. It has never been cancelled in any generation. Marriage is the most basic and fundamental organization in the human race. Even the unbeliever can have great happiness by marrying the right person.

The monogamous relationship is analogous to our relationship to Christ.

**Eph 5:26** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such

thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Marriage is the basis for stability in society. It is the protection for the home where the parents exercise authority over the children.

Is not the institution of marriage under attack in the world today? Define marriage in any way you want and the institution becomes meaningless. When it becomes meaningless it is no longer practiced, and the benefits of that marriage brings to a society are lost.

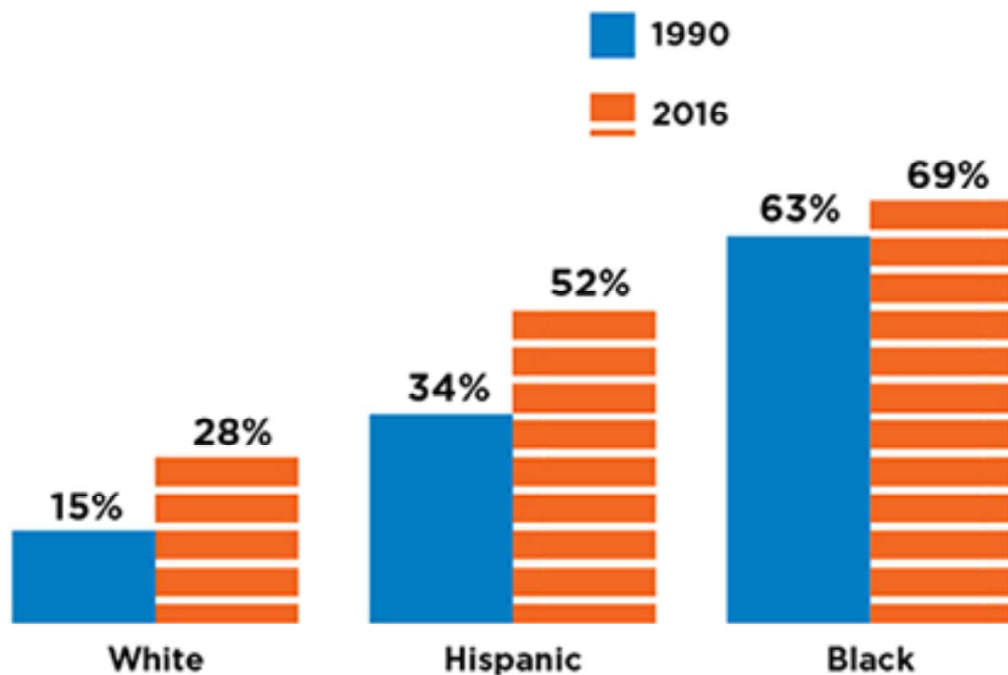
**Family** — God has provided certain divine laws, such as the authority of parents to protect, care, nourish, provide, train, and discipline children to prepare them for life. Parental authority is the way of preparing children for a normal productive life. Permissiveness potentially negates this. There must be recognition of authority and orientation to certain principles in life. The highest expression of parental love is to inculcate a sense of moral authority in the child. Children must be trained to respect the privacy, property, and rights of others, not to abuse freedom, and to have respect for authority. Christian parents must also evangelize, provide spiritual training for their children and instill respect for the Word of God.

**Deut 6:6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

This is a spiritual responsibility for Christians over and above their establishment responsibility.

And is not the family under attack in the world today? With marriage damaged or meaningless, the function of the family in raising law abiding moral children becomes more difficult—not impossible but much more unlikely. Note the rise in births to unmarried women in the chart below. This means increasingly there is no father in the household or, if he is, he is not one that is truly committed to the family. Is it any wonder that we are seeing a rise in crimes committed by children?

*Percent of births occurring to unmarried women age 18+ by race/ethnicity, 1990 and 2016*



Source: Vital Statistics birth data 1990, 2016

**Nationalism** — To perpetuate the human race and bring history to its logical conclusion, God has designed the concept of a nation to protect the freedom and rights of X-number of people on this planet. We call this nationalism. With the divine judgment of the original “united nations” at the tower of Babel, the human race was then divided into nations. This division was originally based on racial, geographical and linguistic norms.

The formation of the Jewish nation set up the perfect standard of what a national entity should be. The Biblical proof that nationalism is authorized by God is found in Genesis 10.

**Gen 10:1** These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood. <sup>2</sup> The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. <sup>3</sup> The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. <sup>4</sup> The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. <sup>5</sup> From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

**Acts 17:26** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

All nations who follow the norms and standards of divine establishment possess the following characteristics.

1. Interior protection of freedom is provided through a proper system of law enforcement, jurisprudence, and a system of law whereby a person is innocent until proved guilty, where only proper testimony is allowed and no hearsay is permitted, and where double jeopardy does not exist.
2. The exterior protection of freedom comes through a strong, well-prepared military.
3. A government of whatever category must protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens without interfering with those rights by the illegal use of power.
4. An economy must be based on free enterprise. The separation of business and state is an important distinction.
5. There must be a system of common law which prohibits crime and thereby protects the freedom, rights, life, and property of individuals. Law, therefore, must always be objective.

6. There must be a common culture which reflects the spiritual life, morality, esprit de corp, nobility, patriotism, and integrity of a nation through its literature, art, music, and drama.
7. There should be a system of government, which functions under its power without abusing its power to destroy freedom and establishment. There should be an administrative body to represent the functions of taxation, law enforcement, honorable jurisprudence, maintenance of the military, and enforcement of law and order without the destruction of human freedom.
8. All of this is designed by God.

And is not the divine establishment of nations under attack in the world today? We are being urged to form a One World Government “for the betterment of mankind”. Imagine for a moment all the mischief that can generate. This call will become even more urgent during the Tribulation when Satan tries to set up his version of a utopian world kingdom that mimics God’s promised kingdom.

**Establishment and Evangelism** — None of these things would be meaningful without the principle that establishment is designed to evangelize where positive volition exists, and to protect where there is negative volition. A system of mutual authority which protects individual self-determination must have separation of church and state. As long as a government allows religious freedom and self-determination, such a government fulfills its establishment function. Therefore, the separation of church and state becomes a basic standard for human freedom.

Divine institutions and the laws of divine establishment are designed to protect human freedoms for the purpose of true evangelism. As such they are frequently the targets of attack by Satan as he attempts to prevent as many people as possible from ever being a testimony against him. Unbelievers must be free to accept or reject the Gospel without coercion or punishment. The state must never adopt an official religion supported by taxpayer's money. Other than providing the freedom to practice your faith (or not) the government should have no part in religion. All religion should be free from taxation and never be supported by taxes. A person's relationship with God or lack of it should be a matter of privacy and personal choice.

**Establishment and Christianity** This relationship is found in Romans 13:1-7. By fulfilling your function as a believer, you do more for your country than anyone else.

**Matt 21:22** "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God, the things that are God's."

**1 Pet 2:13-14** "Subordinate yourselves.... to every human institution."

**Establishment and National Discipline.** Nations can face divine discipline for failing under the laws of divine establishment. When a nation fails to provide freedom for its citizens and actively resists divine principles, that nation may face discipline.

The moral condition of a nation often depends on the remnant of mature believers in that nation called the "pivot". A large pivot of mature believers can have historical impact in a nation that affects its establishment values, and the nation is blessed by association with these mature believers. A small pivot will have minimal or no positive impact on the nation, and it will face discipline, even destruction as a nation.

When divine judgment falls, it always comes in the form of historical disaster. If the pivot is large enough, the nation will be delivered. If it is too small, the nation is destroyed. Every nation has its relationship with the justice of God through the laws of divine establishment.

Historical disaster separates the pivot from the "spin-off" (those in apostasy and reversionism), but the pivot is preserved (Isa 28:5-6). If the nation is preserved, a great period of prosperity always follows. An example is Judah in B.C. 701. The reduction of the spin-off is the basis for that prosperity. The spin-off is destroyed during the crisis so the nation can have prosperity. If a nation doesn't cleanse itself under the laws of divine establishment, then the justice of God cleanses that nation.

Historical catastrophe is designed to destroy the infection of apostasy and degeneracy so that a nation can be preserved. Historical disaster, as the cleansing of a nation, is taught under the concept of the five cycles of



discipline in Lev 26:14-38. There, the principles are laid out in the context of the nation Israel but has application to other nations, in particular those who are “client nations to God”. Client nations are nations during this Church Age that are charged by God with specific responsibilities that include preserving the Bible and providing a safe haven for Jews during their diaspora. (This is another study for a later date.)

### **First Cycle of Discipline**

**Lev 26:14** But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, <sup>15</sup> if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, <sup>16</sup> then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. <sup>17</sup> I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.

### **The Second Cycle of Discipline**

**Lev 26:18** And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, <sup>19</sup> and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. <sup>20</sup> And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit

### **The Third Cycle of Discipline**

**Lev 26:21** Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins. <sup>22</sup> And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

### **The Fourth Cycle of Discipline**

**Lev 26:23** And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, <sup>24</sup> then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins. <sup>25</sup> And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered

into the hand of the enemy. <sup>26</sup> When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

That term translated “wild beast” can mean any form of “live” thing and not necessarily some animal. Covid?

### **The Fifth Cycle of Discipline**

**Lev 26:27** “But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, <sup>28</sup> then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. <sup>29</sup> You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. <sup>30</sup> And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you. <sup>31</sup> And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. <sup>32</sup> And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. <sup>33</sup> And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

Now, for a moment consider these historical disasters and picture nations throughout history that have been “Christian nations” and have gone through this process of cleansing. And then ask yourself how many of these “judgments” are we seeing visited on this nation today?

Based on available state-level data, approximately 890,000 abortions took place in the United States in 2016—down from approximately 913,000 abortions in 2015. In over 75% of the abortions in a survey of 957 women, the reasons given all related to some form of inconvenience such as “don’t want to be a single mother,” “done having children,” “can’t afford a baby,” or “not ready for a child”. God disciplined Israel for sacrificing their children to Baal. We are sacrificing our children to the idol of self. Can God overlook that?

**Establishment and Authority.** Authority is the legal power delegated by God under the laws of divine establishment whereby a certain number of the human race have jurisdiction and responsibility for other members of

the human race. While authority exists in both spiritual and temporal realms, only temporal authority is related to the laws of divine establishment. Authority is necessary for the function of the laws of divine establishment. Establishment authority is for both the believer and unbeliever.

**Establishment and the Ten Commandments.** The decalogue is found in Ex 20:1-17. As these commandments are often prefaced by the phrase, "Thou shalt not," which is the imperfect tense in Hebrew used as the imperative, the phrase indicates the believer's responsibility in protecting human freedom through compliance with the laws of divine establishment. The decalogue isn't about sin but really it deals with the subject of human freedom. It just so happens that certain sins are an attack on human freedom. The ten commandments define human freedom in terms of attitude toward God, people, and property. A person's property is sacred. It belongs to them. There is nothing wrong with being wealthy or successful. It is not anti-Christian.

- The first commandment is not only a prohibition of idolatry, but national recognition that Jesus Christ controls history.
- While the first commandment prohibits mental or soul idolatry, the second prohibits overt idolatry, which is said to be contact with demons, Zech 10:2; 1 Cor 10:19-21.
- Demonism destroys human freedom, while overt idolatry destroys a nation (Isa 2:8, 18-20, 21:9, 36:18-20, 37:12-19; Jer 3:6-11; Ezek 6:4-6).
- The third commandment prohibits the use of the name of the Lord God for vain and unworthy objects, including gossip, false testimony, and covering a lie.
  - Using God's name as an expletive is taking the Lord's name in vain, but is not what this passage deals with. This passage means to use God as a front for your lying, cheating, stealing, or perjury.
  - God's name is used properly in worship, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and the expression of personal love for God.
  - God's name should not be used to persuade people into a false position. "You shall not use the name of the Lord your God for evil." God's name is not to be used for human projects which allege the will of God.

- The fourth commandment relates the volition of man to time. The importance of the Sabbath is in the fact that it is a memorial to the grace of God. It is a reminder that God rested on the seventh day from all He had provided, Isa 58:11-14.
  - The Sabbath also recognizes an establishment principle in the function of the economy, i.e., that people who work for a living have to have time to rest. People need to rest.
  - Doing nothing is a reminder of grace. Just as the body needs rest for function, so man needs rest for freedom. Man with no rest becomes a slave. He has no opportunity to exercise his freedom and personal volition in relationship to time.
- The fifth commandment establishes the principle of authority under the laws of divine establishment. The first authority in life is that of parents. "Respect your father and mother that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives to you." Recognition of authority is the basic principle of orientation to life.
- The sixth commandment emphasizes the establishment principle of live and let live. "You shall not murder."
  - Killing is authorized for capital punishment and for those in the military fighting for freedom.
  - Murder is the basic violation of human freedom. It is also a sin. The right to live under God is removed when a person is murdered.
- The seventh commandment protects marriage. "You shall not commit adultery." Adultery is both a sin and an attack on human freedom. Capacity for love and life is distorted.
- The eighth commandment emphasizes the right of private property under the laws of divine establishment. "You shall not steal." Stealing is a sin, a crime, and a violation of the laws of divine establishment. The command demands the government protect both the lives and property of those in the nation.
- The ninth commandment emphasizes the protection of the laws of evidence. Hearsay is not admissible as testimony. Neither are gossip and maligning allowed to go unchecked.
- The tenth commandment demands restraint on the lust pattern of our sin natures.

### **Establishment and Morality.**

1. The ten commandments define morality in terms of establishment and is for both the believer and unbeliever.
2. Since sin is an attack on establishment, morality is the antidote and is commanded for both believer and unbeliever.
3. Therefore, morality is not Christianity, but is for the human race.
4. Morality is not the monopoly of Christianity.
5. Morality is defined as right conduct and excellence in the function of the laws of divine establishment.
6. Morality is conformity to the laws of divine establishment, which has as its basic tenet: live and let live.
7. While Christianity is not morality but a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, Christianity demands morality from the royal family of God. We are not exempt from certain civil responsibilities.
8. Therefore, the advancing believer should not be anti-establishment or immoral.
9. The laws of divine establishment demand morality from both believer and unbeliever alike.
10. Morality is the result of spiritual growth, but it is not living the Christian life.
11. Living the Christian life is the filling of the Holy Spirit, maximum doctrine in the soul, positive volition to doctrine, and maturity adjustment to the justice of God. None of these can be accomplished by the unbeliever. Christianity is not morality, but this doesn't mean you can be immoral.
12. Morality protects human freedom, but it does not provide eternal salvation, Gal 2:16; Tit 3:5; Rom 3:20.
13. Immorality leads to anarchy.

### **Christian Responsibility to Establishment.**

**Luke 20:25** “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

In closing, in this passage the Lord delineates the Christian responsibility in the civil area and in the spiritual area. Christianity functions under two standards: the laws of divine establishment, which is our civil responsibility, and our spiritual growth and our spiritual walk by faith which represents our spiritual responsibility.

**1 Tim 2:13** "Pray on behalf of kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead undisturbed and tranquil lives in all godliness and integrity."

**1 Pet 2:13** Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.