

The Truth Project

Lesson 7 - Sociology: The Divine Imprint

Introduction

From the atom to the solar system, from a chicken egg to the human body—everywhere we discover purposeful design in the *material* things God has made. But the same element of order is apparent in the social systems He has instituted.

Dr Tackett identifies six social spheres from Scripture: family, labor, church, state, community, and the relationship between man and his Maker. Let's begin looking at these, giving special attention on this tour to the family.

Quote Unquote

What did they say? Fill in the blanks as you watch this presentation.

1. Our God has _____ and _____ within His own being. —*R.C. Sproul*
2. In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one _____, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. —*Westminster Confession*
3. God did not sit in heaven and dream up something called [the] " _____ ." —*Del Tackett*
4. Within the _____ nature of God, we have everything. Everything! Intimacy. Union. Communion. Fellowship. Love. Community. —*Del Tackett*
5. Social order is bound up in the nature of God, because He created social institutions with the _____ of who He is. —*Del Tackett*
6. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the _____ of the wife as Christ is the _____ of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. —*Ephesians 5:22*
7. Be _____ of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. —*Acts 20:28*

Notes or Questions

While watching the video, use these lines to record your thoughts, any facts you want to remember, questions that arise, etc.

Job 25:2

Dominion and awe belong to God; he establishes order in the heights of heaven.

Truth 1 - God's Social Network

Our basic social institutions, including the family and the church, did not just evolve but were created by God.

1. How well can you back up this statement with Scripture? (Hint: See "Check It Out" on p. 79.) Or with other evidence?

2. How would your life be different if there were no social order—no family to belong to, no churches, no governmental or community structures—but just you, on your own? Imagine and describe a typical day or week.

Truth 2 - The Stamp of God

The family as God designed it reflects His own nature. The church does so as well.

1. In what ways do marriage and family mirror the character of God? Describe what you see happening whenever people try to change the design He intended.

2. What should it mean in practical terms that Christ is the head of His body, the church?

Ephesians 5:31-32

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife... This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Truth 3 - Under Attack

The world's hostility toward God lies behind its war against the family and other institutions He created."

1. Do you believe the family is under attack? If so, in what ways? What can happen when one social institution tries to supersede another rather than stay within divinely ordered bounds? Give some examples.

2. What societal problems can be traced back to the breakdown of God's social order? Which of these problems most concern you, and what can we do about them?

Del Tackett

If we could hear but for a brief instant what God must hear in this realm of the pathology of the family, it would crush us.

Wrap Up

We've seen that the social order is not simply an expression of the Lord's creative design, but that it also flows out of His very being. It is a reflection of who He is—diversity within unity. Further, His triune nature explains why it is "not good for man to be alone."

Do you know anyone who is alone? Maybe alone even when part of a church? If so, what is the Lord calling you to do about it? The world's crusade against God's social order should be countered by the daily actions of every believer.

What Is What?

Here's an exercise to try on your own. Draw a line from each term in the first column to its definition in the second column. Terms are taken from the lecture.

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|-------------------|---|
| 1. submission | a. reflection of God's character and communal nature |
| 2. Intimate Three | b. elements arranged properly, neatly, or harmoniously |
| 3. order | c. related elements organized into a complex whole |
| 4. divine imprint | d. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each fully God |
| 5. system | e. willingness to operate under the authority of another |
| 6. social spheres | f. family, church, God and man, state, labor, and community |
| 7. Trinity | g. God and man, family, and church |
| 8. social order | h. God's design of institutions and their function in society |

Check It Out

For your reference and further review, here are some of the key Scripture passages that were mentioned in the video you just watched.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24

Exodus 20:12,14,17

Malachi 2:13-17

Matthew 19:4-8

Acts 20:28

1 Corinthians 14:33

Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4

Colossians 3:18-21

Titus 1:5-6; 2:4-5

Hebrews 13:4,17

1 Peter 3:1-7