

GOD'S THREEFOLD PLAN FOR PEACE AND SUCCESS

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Then He created man, then woman, then their children. That means the first organization He created was the **family**. And we see them having a direct relationship with God. In other words, God created a system of **worship**, like we see in Noah's family with Noah offering a sacrifice as his first act after stepping off the ark. Once there were enough families God then created a plan for everyone getting along with one another - in other words, a system of **civil government**.

The short version is that God created three primary entities to help mankind grow, mature, get along and have peaceful, proper and productive relationships with others, both kin and country. Each of these entities, **family**, **religious family** and **civil government** have very specific purposes and biblically specified directives.

In a plethora of passages God addresses **family**. In particular one could read Proverbs, Ephesians chapters 5 and 6, and numerous others. God addresses the husband/wife relationship, the parent/child relationship, the brother-to-brother (and sister!) relationship and even grandparent relationships. Through the family God has planned for humanity to rear caring, cognitive and law-abiding children who grow to be mature adults who promote not only their own **families** but also **church families** and functioning **civil governments**.

In various other passages God establishes His **church family**. In particular, in this present age, one could read the entire book of Acts and most of the epistles for a clear and concise pattern of how God has built His church, how to make godly converts and how to administer His church, along with real world examples.

In yet other passages, we see that God, Himself establishes nations, and sometimes brings them down. Romans 13 is one of the prime examples of this reality. When nations follow God's plans they prosper. When they don't... they don't. God blesses nations who follow his plan and He withholds blessings, or even brings curses on those nations who ignore His plans for properly administering governmental bodies.

A vitally important understanding for proper balance and practical success is that we keep those three entities God has created, **family**, **church** and **civil government**, in proper perspective, properly identified and properly separated for their God-given purposes. If and when families try to govern, we usually see serious problems of personal power ruining the governing process. When we see churches try to do actual governing, we usually see a loss of the free-will freedoms God has ordained. When we see civil governments attempting to do the jobs God intended for families or churches, we see all the evils that totalitarian regimes have brought on godless nations for millennia.

As God's children today, we should remember that no matter what happens in **civil government**, we can still have both fine, faithful **families** and strong, vibrant **church families**. It was in a conquered and occupied nation that Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God and believe also in Me," John 14:1.

Ray Wallace