

## WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #17

### “God and Government”

#### I. Introduction

One of the greatest reasons the Church is losing the war of the worldviews is that the average American churchgoer has no biblical foundation on the subject of GOVERNMENT.

Most churchgoers are no different than the worldly person when they hear the word “government”-their first thought is “civil government”, or “politics”.

**“The great misconception today is that government is ‘in Washington’ or that the government will ‘take care of people through its programs’. When people hear the term ‘government’, they only think in POLITICAL terms.**

**Gary DeMar**

And that’s a huge problem; because civil government is only *one*, and in some was the least, of the spheres of government in the Bible. So what does God’s word have to say about “government”?

Let’s begin with a 2 Bible verses you usually see only on Christmas cards...

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

**Isaiah 9:6**

ALL government is given to Christ, the Son of God!  
Everything the Bible has to say about government begins with Jesus Christ, Who is the *King* of Kings and *Lord* of Lords.  
Put that together with the next verse...

**Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...**

**Isaiah 9:6-7 KJV**

Verse 6 tells us that God has given all government to His Son...  
Verse 7 tells us that “of the increase of His government there shall be no end.”

When one with a biblical worldview hears the word “government”, he thinks “government of God” not “civil government”.  
The government of God rules over and subsumes all other governments, of which there are 4! (Everybody say ‘FOUR’!)  
When I hear someone talk about “government”, I need to know which sphere of government you are talking about....

**“Historically, the term ‘government’ was always qualified in some way, unlike our present-day definitions. The state was seen as only one government among many.”**

**Gary DeMar**

So before we finish tonight, you will understand that God has ordained 4 definite “spheres” of government, and what each means.

## **II. The 4 Spheres of Government**

### **The 4 Spheres of Government**

- **Self-government**
- **Family government**
- **Church government**
- **Civil Government**

#### **A. The Most Important: Self-Government**

1. The primary sphere of government in the Kingdom of God is *self-government* under God:

a. There is no higher, purer expression of the Kingdom of God than when individuals submit themselves completely to God’s authority and Kingdom.

**“Good government is no substitute for self-government.”**

**Mahatma Ghandi**

2. When the heart of a person is submitted to the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God, life and peace come to the soul..

3. The self-governed man has subdued his flesh; he is not lazy; he accepts personal responsibility to God for his thoughts, words, and behavior.

4. A person under God's government needs very little "government" from the other "spheres".

a. This does not imply that such a person need not be in subjection to the 3 institutions of Government: Family, Church, and Civil; on the contrary, such a person will subject himself to the authority in the institutions, so long as doing so does not require him to violate his primary obligation to God as his ultimate authority.

b. Our model is Christ Himself!

**Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.**

**Luke 2:51**

c. In the Kingdom of God, proper submission to proper authority lines us up with the Divine order and empowers our lives to be used by the Lord.

d. It was a Gentile, a Roman centurion, who recognized that the secret to Jesus' miracle working power was the He was a Man "under authority"!

**"Just say the word and my servant shall be healed; for I also am a man under authority..."**

**Romans 8:8-9**

5. Think of it this way: When you ask people what's wrong with America you get these answers:

- There's a breakdown of the family
- The American church is backslidden
- The federal government is broken and the politicians are corrupt

All this may be true: but you can't fix the family; you can't fix the church; you can't fix the federal government...UNLESS YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL PERSONS WHO ARE SELF-GOVERNED UNDER GOD AND HIS WORD!

6. The founding fathers knew this!

**“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”**

**John Adams**

7. Some say fix the family; some say fix the church; some say fix Washington; but nothing can be fixed unless there are holy people to fix it with!

**“No amount of political maneuvering and institutional reform can make America great again because it was not the greatness of her institutions that elevated America in the first place. It was the Christian piety of her people—a piety nurtured and practiced by early American Leaders.”**

**Michael Minkoff, Jr., Introduction to “American Christian Rulers” by Rev. Edward J. Giddings**

8. Politicians can’t fix America; or her churches, or her families; that can only come when individual persons submit themselves to the Lordship of Christ!

**“In order for America to again become “a city set upon a hill”, she must experience a reformation in her civil, ecclesiastical, and family governments fueled by the spiritual transformation of individual hearts.”**

**Gary DeMar, God and Government**

9. So the 1<sup>st</sup> sphere of God’s government is you and me! Those who not only know Jesus as Savior, but who know Jesus as LORD.

**B. The second sphere of government is *family government*.**

1. From the beginning, God established the family as His ‘building block’ for all the rest of society.

2. Family governmental order is clearly set forth in scripture; Marriage is between a man and a woman; the children are to be in loving subjection to the parents (the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment)

**“The Family is a form of government, established for the good of children themselves, and the first government that each of us must obey.”**

**Alex L. Peterman**

**1891 Public School Textbook**

3. If a husband and wife are operating in God's order and raising their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord, the family is a place of joy, peace, rest, and refreshing,

a. Family government falls apart if the husband does not lay down his life for his wife; if the wife does not respect the husband; if the children do not honor their parents.

b. The goal of Christian parents ought to be to produce "self-governed" sons and daughters who will one day take their place as good citizens.

C. **The third sphere of government is church government.**

1. There is a Divine Order in God's government system:

a. Solid, self-governed parents produce solid, God-governed families.

b. Solid, God-governed families produce solid, God-fearing churches

2. In the same way families are made up of individuals, so churches are made up of families.

a. God has ordained His Church with authority to resolve issues pertaining to individuals and families. (See the power of "binding and loosing" in Matthew 18:17-18)\*

*\*This is the reason the Apostle Paul rebukes the Corinthian Church about taking one another to court, (the civil sphere of government), instead of dealing with conflicts within the Church. (See 1 Corinthians 6:1-8)*

b. Issues not handled by self-government are to be handled by family government; issues not handled by family government are to be handled by church government.

3. Christian people should never have to go beyond these 1<sup>st</sup> 3 spheres of government for their answers. They should never have to go to court!

**Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? 2 Or do you not know that**

**the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?**

**4 If then you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? 5 I say *this to your shame*. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, 6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? 7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that *your* brethren. 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?**

**1 Corinthians 6:4-9 NASB**

4. When Christians go to civil government against each other, (the 4<sup>th</sup> sphere of government), it means that there has already been a breakdown in the first 3 spheres of government!

- Self-government has failed
- Family government has failed
- Church government has failed

5. If Christian people really lived like Christians they would have no need of a civil court system at all. But God knew better. So He established...

#### **D. The final sphere of government is civil government.**

1. God, in His wisdom and mercy, has foreseen the need of governmental order and authority for those who are unconstrained by the first 3 “spheres” of government.

2. As in all spheres of government, God requires that His people submit to civil government by recognizing it as appointed by God.

**Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.**

**Romans 13:1**

3. Paul goes on to say that civil government is the “minister of God” for our good, appointed to serve us and keep the peace; he tells us to pay our taxes and respect our law enforcement officers.

4. The only exception is where obedience to the civil government would require us to violate the higher spheres of government; where keeping man’s law would require us to break God’s law.

5. God appointed civil government as a last constraint upon those who refuse to submit to the higher spheres of government.

6. God gives much power to the state to protect the rights of the higher spheres of government to operate freely.

7. But human history is pockmarked with what happens when the State oversteps its God-ordained duties and begins to usurp the government of God over individuals, families, and churches.

**“If the State is equated with government, then there is no freedom for man, because freedom is inseparable from self-government under God.”**

**R.J. Rushdoony**

8. The political war of the worldviews is now being waged; the secular humanists believe government can save us; the bigger the better; the biblical worldview believes only God can save us; and His government begins with Christ, Who is the Word of God!

**GOD**

**Independent, Autonomous, and Unlimited Governing Authority**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**



**CHRIST/THE WORD OF GOD**



**THE INDIVIDUAL AND HUMAN INSTITUTIONS**  
**Dependent, Delegated, and Limited Governing Authority**

**FAMILY**

**CHURCH**

**CIVIL**

9. It's impossible to have a truly biblical worldview if we don't have a good grasp on the concept of God and government; personal, family, church and civil.

**“To deny the validity of the many governments and the responsibilities each has under God, would be to deny the authority that belongs to each of them in their designated realm of activity.”**

**R.J. Rushdoony**

**(Denial of Government=A Downward Spiral)**

10. Civil government and politics is the lowest sphere of God's government; but we neglect it our peril. Especially today...

**“The political choice before us is Christ or chaos.”**

**Gary DeMar**

11. If America is destroyed, it won't be by politics; she will die because God's people did not embrace God's government; as goes the person, so goes the family; as goes the family, so goes the church; and then the nation.

**“If we as individuals neglect our personal governing duties, then we can expect the State to assume the role of all other legitimate government and claim to be the sole government, while labeling all others as counterfeits. Therefore, to see the State as the only governing institution is destructive to liberty and life.”**

**R.J. Rushdoony**

12. This is what has happened today!

### **III. Conclusion**

**“If the Holy Ghost is withdrawn from the Church, He is not present in the State; and if He, the only ‘Lord, the Giver of Life’ be absent, then all order is impossible and the elements of society lapse backward to primeval night and chaos. I charge you, citizens of the United States, afloat on your wide sea of politics, “there is another King one Jesus”; the safety of the State can be secured only in the way of humble and whole-souled loyalty to His person and of obedience to His law.”**

**A.A. Hodge, Princeton Seminary, 1878**

**“There is a direct relationship between godly self-government, family government and the relationships of life. The self-governed individual prospers in all his labors.”**

**Gary DeMar**

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