

Doctrine of Divine Establishment

1. The key to the prosperity of a nation is the presence of a cadre of positive believers. The size of the core group supporting national prosperity is solely God's call. We call the core group a pivot and the nation blessed by the cadre is called a client nation.

1.1 There are establishment principles which a Christian must respect and follow.

Rom 13:1 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.

Rom 13:2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves ...

Rom 13:6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

Rom 13:7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if custom duties, then custom duties; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men

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1.2 A Christian then must recognize establishment authority. These principles apply in any form of government, even to Nero, said Paul, when in 1Ti 2:1 he ordered prayer for the "old nut". Let me read something of Nero from Michael Grant's book entitled The Twelve Caesars. On page 160 he has written and I quote:

"... if even one-tenth of the tales are true, his varied sexual activities must have encroached on his time ... He was said to have gone to bed not only with perfectly normal, good looking young women, but also with his mother Agrippina, with men older ... with men younger... with eunuchs and with young boys ... " - That he would have poetry contests, chariot races and other events rigged so that he would win is incontrovertible and that he blamed Christians for his burning Rome also seem to be a matter of historical record."

1.3 That the point be not wasted, let me repeat, it was Paul who said pray for him.

1Ti 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

1Ti 2:2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1.4 Nations like people receive discipline from God. Lev 26 tells us of several cycles of national discipline for Israel when they did not obey God's protocol Lev

26:14-28

1st - Distress

Lev 26:14 "But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands,

Lev 26:15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant,

Lev 26:16 then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it.

Lev 26:17 I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you.

2nd - Drought

Lev 26:18 "If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over.

Lev 26:19 I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

Lev 26:20 Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit.

3rd - Beasts

Lev 26:21 "If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.

Lev 26:22 I will send wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children, destroy your cattle and make you so few in number that your roads will be deserted.

4th - Disease

Lev 26:23 "If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me,

Lev 26:24 I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over.

Lev 26:25 And I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant. When you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague among you, and you will be given into enemy hands.

Lev 26:26 When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied.

5th - Famine

Lev 26:27 "If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me,

Lev 26:28 then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over.

Lev 26:29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

Lev 26:31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odors.

6th - Dispersion

Lev 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Lev 26:34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Lev 26:35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

Lev 26:36 And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

Lev 26:37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

Lev 26:38 And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Lev 26:39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

1.5 The key to avoiding national discipline is the maintenance of a pivot and minimizing the spin off.

CHART THE PIVOT VERSUS THE SPIN-OFF

1.6 The pivot is a cadre of mature believers and without them there is trouble in the nation and national discipline. Hos 4:1-6 though it has primary application to Israel, certainly there is secondary application to any nation.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.

Hos 4:2 There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they reject all authority, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Hos 4:3 Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.

Hos 4:4 "But let no man bring a charge, let no man accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest.

Hos 4:5 You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother--

Hos 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priest nation; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."

1.7 Historical national disaster is designed to serve as a wake up call for the client nation to respect the Word of God and its requirements. 2Ch 7:14

2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1.8 As 2Ch 7:14 provides, a nation with a cadre who humble themselves by naming their sins to God, praying, seeking His face by studying the word, and then applying that word; it is then God says He will heal their land.

2. Authority is the leg upon which God's establishment stands.

2.1 People without authority recognition cannot survive.

2.2 Authority is for both the believer and the unbeliever. Just as there are rules for nature so also God has rules for the proper functioning in the devil's world. The laws of God serve as a restriction on Satan and his nefarious plans.

3. We have volition to solve the problem of spiritual death.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3.1 We are also free to gain spiritual maturity through the use of our freedom, we can either believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved or refuse His grace plan; accordingly after salvation the believer can continue growth in time through the use of the two power options or refuse to grow.

Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Joh 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Psa 119:45 I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

4. Establishment is designed to protect human freedom. 1Ti 2:1-4

1Ti 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone --

1Ti 2:2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1Ti 2:3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,

1Ti 2:4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

4.1 This is why the Mosaic Law is still appropriate for a national entity to implement as best it can.

1Ti 1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

1Ti 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

1Ti 1:10 for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

4.2 Establishment is therefore necessary to protect volition and freedom.

5. All citizens, but particularly Christians, must support establishment and authority.
Rom 13:3-6

Rom 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

Rom 13:4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Rom 13:5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

5.1 Christians like all other citizens of a national entity must pay taxes, submit to authority and fight in the military as the leaders of our nation demand.

6. Establishment and the Decalogue:

6.1 The Decalogue can be found in Exo 20:1-17;

Exo 20:1 And God spoke all these words:

Exo 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Exo 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Exo 20:6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exo 20:7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder.

Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal.

Exo 20:16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

6.2 The Decalogue is designed to protect the freedom of all members of the nation.

6.3 Freedom then in the Decalogue is oriented to relationships toward God, people and property.

6.4 The basics of the Decalogue are to be implemented so we can enjoy our freedoms. Freedom to succeed and freedom to fail. It is perfectly all-right, and so ordered by Paul in his Epistles, to work hard and make money and the laws of the land should protect our right to do so.

6.5 Exo 20:3 prohibits idolatry and this verse represents an acknowledgment that it is God Who reigns supreme and not Satan nor his demons.

6.6 Exo 20:4-6 prohibits not only idolatry but also demonism, for both destroy a nation. This is a reference to the overt occult which was so prevalent in Canaan. Verse 6 also declares how God loves those who follow Him.

6.7 Exo 20:7 says you don't cover a lie with the Lord's name. You don't use God as a front for anything in or out of the courtroom. It also would seem to prohibit profanity i. e. the profaning of anything that God has established as sacred which certainly includes His Name.

6.8 Exo 20:8-11 tells us of the importance of the Sabbath; it was a time when Israel was to rest and learn in public assembly at the Tabernacle and later the Temple. It is recognition that in six literal days God did all for mankind and there was nothing left for Him to do, so He ceased.

6.9 Exo 20:12 establishes the responsibility of children to take care of their parents should such a need arise.

6.10 Exo 20:13 says you don't commit homicide for a dead person has no freedom. Dead men make few decisions. Killing is authorized for self defense, protection of private property, the military and capital punishment; it is only murder and manslaughter which the law prohibits.

6.11 Exo 20:14 protects the relationship of the right man and right woman.

6.12 Exo 20:15 protects our right to have and use private property.

6.13 In Exo 20:16 we find a concise statement of the laws of evidence. You are not to commit perjury.

6.14 Exo 20:17 prohibits lust and therefore is a restraint on the lust pattern of our OSNs; recall "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Even the "smallest crime" begins with a thought.

7. The Decalogue defines morality in terms of establishment. Morality is not Christianity; both a believer and an unbeliever can be moral. Morality is not the monopoly of the Christian. Christianity demands morality from the royal family of God. Morality is a result of maturity but it is not living the Christian life; for living the Christian life is when we use the two power options. Morality is good and protects humanity but does not produce either salvation or Christian growth.