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**Divine Institutions**

We'll look at the last point of our doctrinal statement today and this is the only point that we have added since I've been here. It's concerning the Divine Institutions and the circumstances that prompted this addition were legal. Right now there is a heated battle in Maryland over same sex marriage and Christian leaders are having to train Christians in the kind of arguments being made for same sex marriage so they'll be able to defend the Christian position. My mentor, Charles Clough, who lives in Maryland, wrote ten bulletin sized inserts for pastors to insert in their church's bulletin to help Christians understand and respond to the arguments being made by the secular elite. You are welcome to those ten inserts by request. But we have to be very sharp on these arguments because there will come a time in the great State of Texas when same sex marriage will be put on the ballot and it will pass and then we're going to have two men knocking on the door of Fredericksburg Bible Church saying, we want you to marry us, and since I'm acting as a minister of the state in marriage, then if I say no then I could face criminal charges. And by these means the LGBT groups will try to destroy us financially by taking us to court. So you should become very familiar with the arguments for marriage between one man and one woman and you should challenge antagonistic arguments when you hear people making them. That way you convince people of the importance of traditional marriage between one woman and one man. Otherwise the trend toward same sex marriage is only going to intensify. So in light of the nation wide trend toward same sex marriage the elders decided to add a point to our doctrinal statement to protect us long before any laws were passed that might infringe upon traditional marriage and to cover all our bases by making a statement about all five divine institutions which are as follows;

18. We believe the institutions of marriage between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:20-25; Matt. 19:1-6, Mark 10:6-9), family (Gen. 2:24), responsible dominion of man over the earth (Gen. 1:28; Gen. 9:1; Heb. 2:5-8), human government (Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:1-4), and national diversity (Ex. 1:5; Deut. 32:8; Acts 17:26) are established by God, are defined and limited by God in Scripture, and shall not be transgressed or altered by man.

Now by stating that these are “institutions...established by God...not to be transgressed or altered by man” we mean they are “divine” institutions. What is a divine institution? It is “an absolute structure built into creation by God that is unique to man and serves an essentially spiritual function.” Let’s break this definition down into its component parts and see if we can draw it all together. First, a divine institution is “an absolute structure built into creation.” These are absolute, meaning they apply to all people in all places in all times, they are not culture bound, they are not geographically bound, they are not time bound, they are universal. The deception in our society is to interpret these things as conventions. So let me right away show you the two sides to this debate. Paganism says these are conventions, Christianity says these are institutions. That’s the debate. Are these five structures conventions or are they institutions? By conventions we mean something that is just arbitrarily selected. One culture may agree to shake hands when they meet, another culture may kiss on the cheek; one culture may say “hello” when they answer the telephone, another culture may say “peace.” One culture may agree to sit on the floor and eat dinner, another culture may sit at a table in chairs, these are all social conventions, things that are arbitrarily established. One is not right and another wrong, they are simple conventions, and that’s fine, we recognize that, but pagans are extending this argument into marriage, family, etc...and that is where we part ways. The Christian argument is that when it comes to marriage, family, etc...these are rooted in who we are as people made in God’s image and therefore they are not mere social conventions but divine institutions and therefore if they are transgressed or violated then there is a price to pay. Paganism says there is no price to pay, if we change the definition of marriage it may rub people the wrong way, it may cause temporary friction, but there are no real serious penalties involved. But Christianity says there is a big price to pay if we violate or change these because it is altering the structure of how God created us, and therefore there are serious consequences on down the line. So we are maintaining these are institutions over and against mere conventions.

The second part of this definition is, not only are they an absolute structure built into creation by God but they are “unique to man.” It may seem obvious to you that they are unique to man but this is not obvious to the average person on the street. What we are doing by saying “unique to man” is distinguish man from nature; man is not a part of nature, man is not an animal. Yet every child in the American public school system and many in Christian private education are taught that man is an animal. How are they taught this? How is the argument made? It starts like this: mammals have certain characteristics; they give live birth, they have hair, they regulate their own body temperature, they have a spinal chord, etc..., these are the characteristics of a mammal. So they create a category foreign to Scripture called mammal, then they list the characteristics of a mammal. After they have legislated this category called mammal that is completely foreign to Scripture then they start saying, do bears have these characteristics, yes, so bears are mammals, do whales have these characteristics, yes, so whales are mammals, do apes have these characteristics, yes, so apes are mammals, and then they simply say, do humans have these characteristics, yes, so humans are mammals. Now they’ve wiped out the man-animal distinction. Men and animals can now be thought of and treated the same.

Absolutely not - according to Scripture. Why? Because man alone is created in God’s image. I want you to observe that your view of origins can’t be separated from the discussion of whether marriage and family are mere conventions or institutions; it’s the fundamental issue underlying the entire discussion. If man is essentially no different than an animal then we approach man and his social structures in essentially the same way we approach animals. But if man is made in God’s image and is distinct from the animal then man and his social structures must be approached in a totally different way than animal social groups. So the second part of the definition here means they are “unique to man.”

The third part of the definition of a divine institution is that they “serve an essentially spiritual function.” Basically they are there to protect the spiritual well-being of human beings. You might think of these as protections for humanity. And if they are violated then the protection is removed and now we are in serious danger. In other words, there is a price to pay. These institutions are the fabric that hold societies together and when you alter

them, when you re-define them what you are doing is ripping and tearing at the fabric of society and it very quickly falls into pieces. Don't you find it interesting what Gibbon, the famous historian of the 17<sup>th</sup> century said about the fall of Rome? He wrote the most influential book on the fall of Rome and when he went to cite the reasons for the fall of Rome you know what was number one on the list? It wasn't foreign militaries. Number one was rampant immorality that led to prevalence in divorce and the disruption of the family. That's divine institutions number two and number three. Guess what was number two on the list? Number two was their preoccupation with sports, circuses and games, how they devoted all their time to the pursuit of those things. And guess what number three on the list was. Number three was dependence on the state for support rather than working, so that they had time to devote to leisure and pleasure. Numbers two and three relate to divine institution number one. So Rome fell, we can say because it violated divine institution number one, responsible labor, divine institution number two, marriage and divine institution number three, family. So what we're saying by the fact that divine institutions serve an essentially spiritual function is that they are like super-glue that holds a society together. Without them it will fall apart. And that is what we are seeing in our country, a rabid hatred of the absolute nature of the fact these are divine institutions but the denial leads to redefinition by man and now they are looked upon merely as conventions. This is a formula for national disaster.

Now this is also a priority system, you can evaluate any idea on the basis of the divine institutions and see where responsibility lies. For example, take education. Which of the five is responsible for education? The family, the home is the first school. It can't be human government, that didn't come along until 1600 years after creation. So what, you didn't have any education because no government? Baloney, it happened in the family, in the home. The other day I was reading on this subject some more and I read a woman who said, I was a teacher, my mother was a teacher, my grandmother was a teacher and I'm telling you the system is a disaster and the problem is the "federal department of education." The problem is not the teachers, the teachers are many fine people doing the best they can, but they are just the strings on a violin and you don't blame the bad sound on the strings, you blame it on the person playing the instrument. In this case it's the United States Department of Education supported by guess who; no other than the born again peanut farmer president, Jimmy Carter. Now if that born again

man just knew that education was not a governmental function then he'd have never supported it. This is just an example. We can take anything, we can take economy and you see the same mistake being made. Biblical economics has always been free market capitalism because of divine institution number one; if you labor you have the right to impute value to your idea, to your invention, to your labor and other people have the right too. So the government doesn't have anything to say about the value. What are they doing in the economy? They're blowing it, that's what they're doing. If the government is in it you might as well let them have it all the way so we can have socialist economics, set prices and all the rest of it. So these divine institutions tell you who is responsible for what.

Now guess what, since they are absolute structures they are absolutely related to one another, and that means that if you change one you necessarily change all the others. Because they're woven, they're linked and this is how they're linked, there's a specific order. Marriage is built on and defined in terms of responsible labor, family is built on and defined in terms of responsible labor and marriage, national government is built on and defined in terms of responsible labor, marriage between one man and one woman and healthy families. So a whole view of the social structures comes out of this and if you modify or change any one of these the whole thing begins to collapse. It doesn't matter whether you're a believer or an unbeliever. That's irrelevant to the issue; the divine institutions are made for the whole human race because the whole human race is made in the image of God. So they serve "an essentially spiritual function" because they protect man.

Let's look briefly at the first one, responsible labor or dominion. When you observe the Genesis 1:3, 1:6; 1:9; 1:11; 1:14, etc...what's the general picture you get of God? What do you see Him doing over and over again? He's making things. What then can we say is the first picture the Bible presents of God? As a laborer. What Genesis records is the first work week. Isn't it interesting that the first image of God is as a laborer who is working and producing something? At the end of the week He evaluates His labor and says it was very good. So we have a function here that occurs, not first with man but with God. God plans, He works, He evaluates His work, He takes pleasure in it. So the first picture of God is as a laborer. What is the first picture of man? As a laborer. What did God tell man to do? Cultivate and keep a garden, have dominion over the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and the animals of the

land. Is that really a surprise? If our first picture of God is as a laborer and God made man in His image, doesn't it follow that the first picture of man is as a laborer too? So we work and then we evaluate our work, put a price tag on it, free market economics! No governmental interference. Get out of here, leave me alone, let me produce something here.

Granted there are a lot of people in this country who don't want to work. A few weeks ago someone sent me an e-mail with a picture of a car's license plate that read H8 WRK. And with that attitude of course you can see economic disaster not far in the future. Men were created to produce something of value and when we do so we are following God as the first producer and evaluator.

Don't you find it amazing that you can't get past Gen 1 before getting to labor? A dominant theme we observe right from the very start, responsible labor. Not just labor but responsible labor. Why do we say responsible? Because man's labor is going to be evaluated. Turn to Col 3:24-25. This is something we don't think about with respect to the doctrine of sanctification. What we produce, our work is going to be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ. And not only the product itself but the motive behind it. Just who is it we're trying to please? In v 21 he's talking about labor, he's talking about work, this is your job. And in verse 23 he says, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men," there's the command, verse 24, the motive, "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance." Why does the Bible say we ought to do our work as to the Lord rather than men? Because the Lord makes absolute value judgment. Who ultimately is the evaluator of our labor? Your boss down the hall evaluates and he may think you did a crappy job. But ultimately it's not your boss who gives the final judgment is it. Christ is. So if you've done the work unto Him be encouraged. The final verdict isn't in yet. This is a dimension of labor we're not accustomed to thinking about in 21<sup>st</sup> century Christianity. So I want to quote here from John Robbins. Robbins has done some good work on the Reformation period. He says, this is the Reformation mindset about work, this is 500 years ago, "The Reformation caused a revolution in thought about the dignity of work, and work became a calling; good works became those tasks done in the pursuit of one's vocation..." Look at that, good works became those tasks done in the pursuit of one's vocation. Where is that taught in the Christian church today? When you go into the office or you go to



the job site, whatever your job is, how you do your job is the primary thing that's going to be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ. Not did you keep the pew warm 51 out of 52 weeks per year. Look at the result of this high view of labor. "The result was a spurt of economic activity that transformed Protestant countries, making them the most prosperous, inventive, and powerful nations on Earth."<sup>i</sup> We've enjoyed tremendous prosperity in this country. The Puritan work ethic is what he's talking about. Do you realize that practically all the capital that went into industrializing the West came from the Puritans? And now we run the Puritan's down, the Salem Witch trials and all the rest of it. They built this country with their own sweat and blood. And here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we can't get men to work. Now we H8 WRK.

My point is that economics depends on divine institution #1, responsible labor. And people say, "well, labor is arbitrary, the workweek is arbitrary, that 6:1 ratio is arbitrary, we can change that?" No you can't, the 6:1 ratio of labor to rest is built into the fabric of creation, into the structure of man." And we have all kinds of attempts to manipulate this. Someone in North Carolina a few years back was lobbying for a three day work week with a four day weekend. This isn't a joke, we have a very low view of labor and consequently the economy is failing. That's not the only factor. Depopulation is another one, we're barely replacing ourselves and were it not for immigration we wouldn't be, but we'll reserve that for the divine institution of family. The conclusion is that if we don't get back to a high biblical view of labor, one that you hardly ever hear preached in the pulpit, we're going to have more and more problems. Responsible labor is an institution, not a convention. Labor is fundamentally related to my being created in God's image.

The second divine institution God set up in Gen 2:18, **marriage**. When God performed the first surgery He didn't fashion the rib into another man, he fashioned it into a woman to complement the man, to be his helper. Then He performed the first marriage. The two became one flesh, two men don't become one flesh. In fact, marriage has always been bilateral, between *one* man and *one* woman. Societies have tolerated polygamy and polyandry at different times but nowhere have they been tolerated at the same time. Homosexuality has been going on for a long time. People were cured of it in 1

Cor 6:9-11. So don't tell me it can't be undone. Liars can become truth tellers, drunks can become sober and homosexuals can become heterosexuals.

Marriage between a man and a woman is not a conventional arrangement. If you try to re-define marriage the culture will crumble because it's contrary to the design and purpose of marriage. This seems obvious not only from the word of God but also from the individual design of the sexes. To show you this I want to quote from a man over in Austin, a thinker, he's a professor of government and philosophy at University of Texas of all places. He says, "Both sexes are needed for procreation, and not just because a man can't get pregnant." Note that, not just because a man can't get pregnant. He's saying there's more to it than just anatomy and physiology. "Both sexes are needed to raise the child because the female is better designed for nurture and the male for protection and discipline; both are needed to teach the child, because every young one needs a model of his own sex as well as the other. Children need a Mom and a Dad, not a Mom and a Mom or a Dad and a Dad."<sup>ii</sup> What Budziszewski is getting at is the design of the man and the design of the woman; they are designed to complement one another in every way, yes, obviously in the physical make-up but also in their mental and emotional make-up. God designed male and female with distinct mental and emotional make-up.

We can go on and point out other things. Marriage also provides an outlet for sexual desire. There's nothing wrong with sexual desire. People have sometimes spurned that desire. But there's nothing wrong with it, in the context of marriage. That's one of the blessings of marriage. It's a protection for us. Your body is not your own, your body belongs to your spouse. So you should never deprive them of fulfilling sexual desire.

That's sinful. The problem isn't sexual desire but not fulfilling sexual desire inside of marriage. Misdirected sexual desire is rampant; we're way beyond free sex. David Kupelian of WND says, "News reports today showcase an epidemic of school teachers having sex with their underage students, teen "sexting" and rampant middle-school "hookups," transgenders marching in parades proudly displaying their surgically mutilated bodies, and ever-increasing tolerance of adult-child sex. Perhaps most troubling...is so-called "same-sex marriage." "If same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land, moral confusion will dominate our culture, polygamy and other aberrant forms of "marriage" will quickly follow, traditional Christianity will be essentially criminalized, and much more. In a word, America will become



unrecognizable.”<sup>iii</sup> In 2003, The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court re-defined the old-as-earth definition of marriage as not one man and one woman but “the voluntary union of two persons as spouses.”<sup>iv</sup> What’s going to happen to our culture? Homosexuality has a long history, but as far as I know we are blazing new territory by legalizing and recognizing homosexual unions as marriages. All but 5 states have constitutional provisions that prohibit same-sex marriage. Those states are, first, our next door neighbor NM and the other four are in the north east, NY, NJ, RI and MA. And you’re up to date on the things happening in CA. It doesn’t fit the biblical model.

When it comes to divorce, divorce rates, also known as family suicides, have skyrocketed in the last 50 years. No fault divorce, which we have in Texas led to an increase, catch this, of 20%. And the Christian divorce rate is just as high. We’re no different than the world when it comes to this. 50% of marriages fail whether your Christian or non-Christian. We need to seriously think about this. It destroys the family, it hurts children, don’t be naïve, you can’t keep them from the negative repercussions of this. You can give them the Scriptures, you can give them the tools so they can pick up the pieces, but you can’t get back to the original picture. As far as the economy impact goes, for every divorce you’ve got to support two households now rather than one. That creates financial strains, it creates more homes and with less people, as we’ll see, due to the overpopulation myth, it spells disaster for real estate, investment property and ultimately the entire economy. Divorce is a bad idea. In marriage everyone is going to have problems, it’s a fallen world and you don’t see sparks fly any more than when you put two sin natures next to one another in the same household. But that doesn’t mean get out. That doesn’t mean quit. 90% of marriage problems can be solved with eight words, it’s just eight words. And here they are; they’re a gold mine, “Stop worrying about self, get right with God.” That’s it.

Let’s think of the picture you get of the second divine institution, and see if we can link it with the first one. Let’s see if these two aren’t related structurally. What did we say the first one was? Responsible labor, man’s responsibility was given to subdue the earth; he was given the garden to cultivate; that was his job, to labor for the glory of God. Then what’s next. Gen 2:18., “Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” Well, what do you need a helper

for? In context, what does the man need help with? The only thing there is his job, his responsibility. What's the implication? If man needs a helper then he can't do his job alone. Now, does this begin to fit? What this says is that the man needs a woman to complete his responsible labor unto the Lord, and so God created the institution of marriage, the first social structure, and it's created in the context of responsible labor. What does that imply for the purpose of marriage? It's not romance, it's not happiness, its first and primary reason is to labor for the glory of God. Man needs a woman to help him produce. It may not fire your jets but this is what it's about, man was created from the earth and woman out of the man to rule the earth together. Yet you can take sociology course after sociology course and they never touch this because marriage is considered to be a late development in the history of mankind, it's a mere social arrangement, a convention, not an absolute structure, not an institution. We say that's backward, that marriage goes back to the Garden and all other forms of living arrangements are sinful, they're ripping and tearing at the fabric of society. Marriage is a divine institution between one man and one woman and it's a very serious institution because it is tied to the first institution. Marriage has its meaning in its productivity, and what comes out of a marriage, not just babies, they come out too, but it's more than that, it's a whole culture that comes out. And if you change it, if you twist it, turn it some other way then society will self-destruct.

Francis Schaeffer made an interesting point in his analysis of the Fall of Rome. He said Rome didn't fall because of lack of military might, Rome crumbled from the inside. It was moral decay, internal rot, they violated all these institutions. Rome had 109 holidays a year. What does that say about the work ethic? Rome was a sexually licentious culture. You can find phallus' all over the ancient ruins. What does that say about marriage? It says that Rome was corrupting these basic institutions. And Rome became a ruin.

We move to the third one addressed in Gen 1:28, the third divine institution is family. Family is the basic, most fundamental unit of society. I want to make a point about this, we don't have time to get into the Mosaic Law but there are some provocative passages in the Law. We're used to going out and buying a car, for example, and titling that car to either the husband or the wife, sometimes joint ownership, but we tend to title property in our country to an individual. What is unique about the Mosaic Law is that property

wasn't entitled to individuals, it was entitled to families. Land was not held by individuals, land was held by families. So, the economic structure, the basic unit of legal possession was the family. Now we've come a long way from that. Our basic fundamental unit of possession in our society is the individual; that's the difference. And where this shows up is when you get into today what we call inheritance taxes. There are no such things as inheritance taxes in the Bible. Do you know why? Because taxes are supposed to be when you change ownership, the gainer is supposed to pay tax on that. But if property is titled to a family, then when the father and mother die and that property goes to the son or daughter, that's not a change in ownership. So, since it's not a change in ownership there's no taxation. There is no such thing as inheritance taxes in the Bible. Inheritance taxes came into our society, ironically, through Karl Marx, and he had a reason for it, not some benign revenue raising function, inheritance taxes were designed to crush the family; it was very clear Karl Marx' reason for inheritance taxes.<sup>v</sup> So there's this agenda that operates in back of all these things that we have to recognize. Let's not be naïve about these little agendas that go on behind the scenes. The Bible says that the family is the basic unit of society. Now, in Gen 1:28 mankind is given the mandate to populate the world," here we deal with this problem of over-population, birth control and all the rest of the questions. In Gen 1:28 "mankind was to populate the world, but it was to be done in conjunction with ruling it." Stop and re-read again Gen 1:26-28. Notice all parts of that Scripture passage. In verse 26, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image,' etc. "and let them rule," what's the first thing mentioned? It's the ruling function, "let them rule over the fish of the sea," "let them rule over the earth," etc. He creates them in verse 27, and then He says in verse 28, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it," notice that population growth is in the context of the first divine institution. See how these flow, they all are tied together. All these institutions are tied together and the family is the way dominion spreads. This is a very unromantic view, I'm not knocking the romantic side, there's a whole book written to the romantic side, called the Song of Songs. We're not studying that now, all we're trying to do now is to show that these institutions have an inherent mutually supporting structure, responsible labor, marriage and family are all part of the way man grows and exercises dominion.

Let's think about population control, because this is often criticism against the Judeo-Christian worldview. Paul Ehrlecht popularized this myth in his

1968 book, *The Population Bomb*. Despite his prophetic failures his extreme scenarios of the dangers of overpopulation have become standard university propaganda. He says, “We must have population control at home, hopefully through a system of incentives and penalties, but by compulsion if voluntary methods fail.”<sup>vi</sup> Stop a moment and think about that. What’s he saying? Let’s attack children, destroy children, which is what we’ve done. Since Roe v Wade our country alone has destroyed 50 million children. We save the whales, we save the seals but we destroy our own children. Allan Carlson says, “It’s an odd thing that an entire civilization would turn on children, but in many respects that’s the revolution that we are now involved in.”<sup>vii</sup> Think of what we’ve done. If we destroy children what does this do to population growth? It slows it.

There’s a fertility rate you have to keep or else your society disappears. For a people group or nation to maintain itself it has to have a Fertility Replacement value of 2.13 or greater. 70 nations on earth are below Fertility Replacement. Italy can’t recover, France is at 1.38, they’re gone, Europe is lost, the German government has already stated that by 2050 Germany as a country will no longer exist, they’re not replacing themselves, they’ll be overrun by Muslims. Japan and Russia are giving incentives to have children, at least they recognize the problem. Mexico, they’re in a birth dearth. The US is at 2.11, right at the threshold and 60% of our population growth is from this, get this, immigration.

This is a serious problem and the reason it’s a serious problem is because as we get older we retire, we have increased medical costs, we need supplemental income, but who is going to support them? We already know social security isn’t going to be there long. And if we’re having less children that means you end up with an inverted pyramid. Which means you end up with the scenario that one 30 year old working man is supporting six elderly people and his own family, and that doesn’t work. That’s where we’re headed if we don’t have children, if we wait until we’re 40, if we abort babies. It’s simple mathematics.

Contrary to what the overpopulation people say, the Bible says population growth is a blessing. What’s the Exodus all about? Pharaoh is scared, why? Because of the population growth of the Hebrews. It comes right out of Gen 1:26-28, “Be fruitful and multiply.” What do the children do? They go out and

labor, they discover more resources, they develop technology, all that supports greater populations. That's subduing the earth. But if you kill them all off or you don't replace yourselves then what are you doing? Our economy has to retract, progressive technology comes to a halt, famine, disease and death are the result. Failure to subdue.

Let's go to Deut 6; this is a favorite of home-schoolers. The family, if you think about it, the family is our first school, it's our first church, it's our first social structure, it all starts in the family. When Jesus Christ came into this world how did he come? As a baby. What did He come into? A family. And when God reveals Himself, how does He reveal Himself? As the Father—of a family. These institutions are related; they are so far from being mere social arbitrary conventions, they are rooted not only into the structure of the universe, they are rooted into the very character of God. When God established the family, He was anticipating how He would reveal Himself to man. Where do you think we get terms like father and son? Family terms that manifest Trinitarian relationships, so the whole institution itself is revelatory of the character of God. This is not an arbitrary convention. One feature about the family: In Deut 6:6-7, Moses mandate to the home, he says "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up." That doesn't mean just quoting the Bible all the time. If you look carefully at that it says you will "talk of them", meaning that you talk in terms of the word of God. Every discussion on every topic ought to reflect a biblical outlook on life; the family ought to be rooted in the word of God. That's what it's saying, so no matter what the topic happens to be, a job, a political speech, a piece of art or music, it ought to be thought about in terms of the framework of Scripture. That is how society gets controlled, but if the family breaks down and this kind of discussion doesn't happen in the home, society gets in trouble very fast. We're seeing that today. Christian families rarely engage in this kind of discussion.

Think of another aspect of family, the importance of parents. Back to the 60's when the elite went on crusades to get sex education in the schools they said, "Forget about the parents, we've got teen pregnancy and venereal disease." They actually created this problem, if you check the record teen pregnancy and disease had actually been decreasing for about 10 years. But these guys

want to fix problems that don't exist so they enshrine the government to deal with it. And what happened? What happened when the crusades were successful and sex education programs were put in schools? Did it work? No, it didn't work. Teen pregnancy rates sky rocketed and venereal disease went right with it. So, now you go to school and rather than learning how to diagram sentences little Billy learns about sex in health class. Why? As the Journal of School Health says, "sex education presents an exciting opportunity to develop *new norms*." In other words, let's circumvent the parents to create a perverse, illicit society. And boy we've done it. Here's a real whopper, "A popular sex instructional program for junior high school students aged 13 and 14, shows film strips of four naked couples, two homosexual and two heterosexual, performing a variety of sexually explicit acts," now is that really going to discourage kids from getting in the sack? Showing them pornography? "and teachers are warned with a cautionary note from the sex educators not to show the material to parents or friends: "Many of the materials of this program shown to people outside the context of the program itself can evoke misunderstanding and difficulties." There's an agenda to circumvent the parents. And this goes on and on and on, marriage and family are destroyed and that by the government.

Should we really be surprised with all the alternative sexual lifestyles? We're creating a highly promiscuous society and what comes out of that are broken marriages and broken families. So, over the past 40 years public schools have become, really, indoctrination centers for sexual experimentation. Now we can take a 5 year old boy, mentally molest him and call that upholding the law. How convenient. But see, that's what you get when you mess with these divine institutions. That's what you get when you think of them as just mere conventions. And don't forget, it doesn't stop there, there are also economic repercussions. God is not mocked, "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." If these are indeed structural institutions and not arbitrary conventions, then when they unravel there's an economic price to pay, a horrendous price to pay socially.

My point in going through all this is to show you we've got to do something and that something is the biblical solution. We have got to, as Christians, return to the biblical model for responsible labor, marriage and family. We have got to start with the Scriptures and restore this model, build a biblical culture with fathers who have a strong work ethic, husbands and wives who



have strong marriages built on the model of Christ and the Church, fathers as the head of the household teaching the children the word of God, parents as the authorities in the home with children in all submission learning obedience. There's no other way to restore America. And I'm not saying we'll live to see it restored. It takes generations to rebuild. But we'll be on the right track, and we'll be living lives that please our Lord and Savior.

Let's look at the last two: human government, Genesis 9:6. Isn't it interesting human government didn't even exist until the time after the flood? After in Genesis 8 and early in chapter 9, He adds a 4<sup>th</sup> one and a fifth one. The basic right of human government being given in Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man". At this point, this is the right to capital punishment, which is the fundamental and most basic point of human government. If they don't have this right, they don't have any right. Capital punishment is built in to divine institution number four as a necessary means to curb sin in the world. You say, it doesn't work – you put them on death row for 45 years, the taxpayers support them, etc. Yes, well, it would curb sin if it was carried out according to the biblical parameters outlined in the Mosaic legislation – which are what? You have to have 2-3 witnesses, you've got to have swift justice (none of this waiting around 25 years, feeding them 3 meals a day, and giving them cable); everyone has forgotten who they killed. That's slow justice, doesn't really make an impression. If you may be dead tomorrow you are gonna think twice about it. This is the most fundamental right – of human government, the right to take the life of one who has destroyed the image of God. Romans 13 in the New Testament – all authority is given by whom? 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. Consequently he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 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. For he is God's servant to do you good." Man has the sword in the present era and has the right to exercise it in order to curb evil.

The last divine institution is Genesis 10 and 11 and this is the table of nations, national diversity. We don't have time to go through the book of Exodus or to count the number of nations that are laid out in Genesis 10 but you will see from Deuteronomy that God divided the nations into 70 after the time of the Flood. In chapter 11, He divided their languages at the Tower of Babel because before that everybody only spoke one language. There are language barriers between people groups. I suggest to you that these 70 nations could be the way that God is looking at the human race today. We have something like 260 nations in the world; God may be looking beyond some of those boundaries to see the original 70 and tracing those people groups; that may be an insight into how to interpret some of the prophecies and understand how to understand them when referring to certain people – possibly. So He divides them originally into 70, He divides the language and come to Acts 17 and look what the apostle Paul says about the importance of these boundaries being maintained; here we are talking about a very modern issue, immigration. We have people coming across the border down here; I live 135 miles from the border. I don't know how close you are but you can get on Google Earth and see how far it is to the nearest border. I don't like what is coming across the border; they are finding Korans in the desert and prayer blankets. There is hardly anything being done down there. The drug cartels, 130 miles from here, you know how long it takes to drive 130 miles on the highway, not even 2 hours. These are important issues. What does the Bible have to say about boundaries. Acts 17:26, Paul in his speech at Mars Hill, "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live." Just stop there – that is talking about national diversity, that is talking about borders between different people groups, that is talking about making from one, not Adam, Noah. That's where the nations came out of in the time after the Flood. First nation ever formed was after the Flood, no nation was before the Flood, nations come after the Flood, but he made from Noah every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth having determined their appointed time and the boundaries of their habitations. These boundaries are very important. God even changed language to help enforce the distinctions. People say our country was formed by a mish-mash of German, English, so forth; yes they were but guess what? Most came over with the same ideas as far as world view is concerned. Now we have many different people coming from all sorts of world views and destroying our culture. The primary thing as far as a

culture is concerned that while it is very important to have a single language because a language is the medium by which we propagate our world view. Languages have the abilities to carry ideas and a language is fine tuned to carry ideas. Who is William Tyndale? 89% of the King James Version bible was done by King James and the guys who put that together in 1611 followed the verbiage of who? William Tyndale. Shakespeare, Chaucer – not one of those guys is the author of modern English. The guy who is is William Tyndale who translated the Bible into English; the New Testament in 1525. Before he finished the Old Testament in 1533 or so, he was burned at the stake and it was finished by Coverdale and some others. But he is the guy who gave us a lot of our words. Ever hear the word Resurrection? William Tyndale coined that word. Many, many words that we use in the English language, are fine tuned to propagate the Christian thought form and now it doesn't matter; let's just teach everybody Spanish so everybody can get used to all the immigrants coming in. It's not just immigrants coming in, it's a world view of ideas through their language. We are giving away our culture by giving away language. Acts 17:26, why did God want these divisions? Because of verse 27, that they should seek God. If perhaps they should grope for Him and find Him. National borders are essential to God's purpose of humans seeking Him; this is the way He works. We do away with the boundaries, what do we produce? People not seeking Him, the exact reverse.

Those are the 5 divine institutions that are all related to one another. Responsible labor being first and the fundamental purpose of the human race as made in the image of God who is first himself a laborer. Marriage, because man cannot do this alone, he must have a woman to help him produce for the glory of God. Third, family to extend this dominion by training them how to labor with their hands to become responsible citizens before the Lord. Fourth, civil government, human government the purpose of which is to curb the evils, the dangers of sin in a country and fifth, national diversity in order to protect the thought forms such that people will seek God.

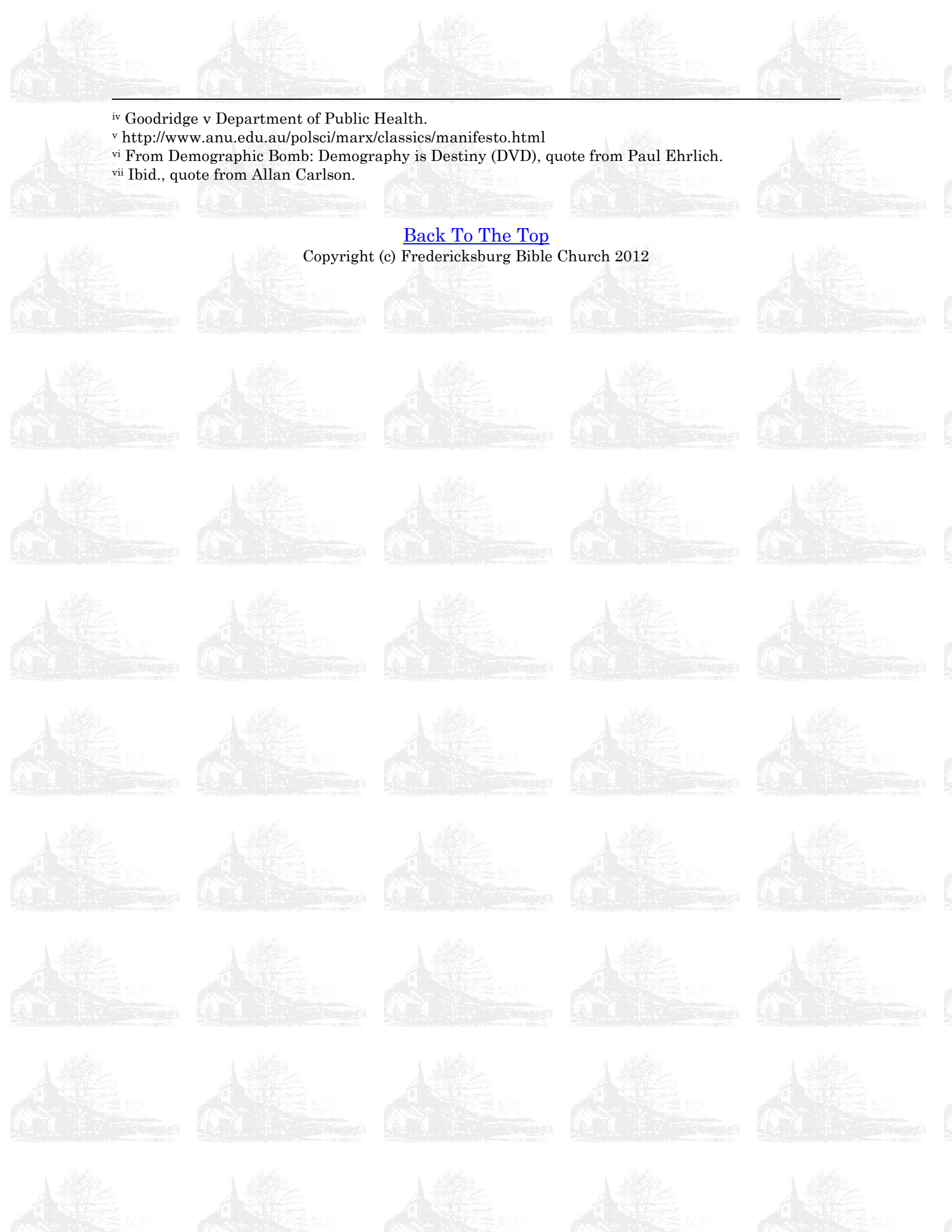
Those are the divine institutions that we think are highly important and therefore they become a part of our doctrinal statement.

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<sup>i</sup> John W. Robbins, *Christ and Civilization*, 43.

<sup>ii</sup> J. Budziszewski, *What We Can't Not Know*, 36.

<sup>iii</sup> David Kupelian, *Why Conservatives are Abandoning the 'Gay' Issue*, 2010 WorldNetDaily



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iv Goodridge v Department of Public Health.

v <http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/classics/manifesto.html>

vi From Demographic Bomb: Demography is Destiny (DVD), quote from Paul Ehrlich.

vii Ibid., quote from Allan Carlson.

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