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Chapter 1: Government

Government is an institution that has been instituted from the very beginning of time. Well, what is government exactly? According to *Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary*, Government is “direction and regulation.” It is “control and restraint”, “the exercise of authority”, “direction and restraint exercised over the actions of men in communities, societies, or the states”, “the exercise of authority by a parent or householder”, “The system of polity in a state; that form of fundamental rules and principles by which a nation or state is governed, or by which individual members of a body politic are to regulate their social actions; a constitution, either written or unwritten, by which the rights and duties of citizens and public officers are prescribed and defined; as a monarchical government, or a republican government”, “an empire, kingdom, or a state”, “the right of the governing and administering of laws of a kingdom or state”, or an “executive power”¹. As we can see here, the purpose of government is to exercise restraint and authority over man. Man is inherently sinful from birth and cannot be redeemed without the grace of God and the blood of Jesus. Therefore, God has established four basic forms of government

in each of our lives. These four basic forms or spheres are the Self, Family, Church, and Civil.

Chapter 2: Self Government

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A Look at Government

Self government is the government that each individual human being has over himself. This ultimately means that you are responsible for all the actions, thoughts, and such that you commit. Man, being sinful from birth, needs redemption and restraint. However, if trained correctly at a young age by his parents, this individual can have a developed conscience which will allow him exercise certain self control over himself. Self government can be manifested in many ways from not drinking poison because you know it will kill you to not stealing money, looking at pornography or smoking illegal drugs because you know it is wrong and will offend God. The purpose of Self Government is to promote righteousness which is utterly impossible without the help, grace, and mercy of God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. The property of Self Government is the conscience. Through the conscience, we can hear God and talk to Him; we can be convicted by the Holy Spirit and built up by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our conscience is a lifeline between us and God, and when our conscience is defiled by sinful works, we cannot hear from God and will become like a person trapped by himself without any communication with the outside world. Without a working conscience, you can be compared to a man

blundering around in the dark wearing a blindfold. Your conscience is a person with sight following you and telling you where to go. Without him there, you will stumble and eventually fall, getting hurt and perhaps even dying.² So our conscience is extremely important and must be guarded like precious diamonds, being our lifeline to God. So what happens when your conscience gets defiled by bad works? You can pray to God and have the blood of Jesus wash over your conscience and restore it to new again. As you then can see here, Self Government is a form of internal government where you can control your own actions and give yourself self-restraint, a symbol of maturity. However, not everyone has self-government and when they don't have self control, which is common because of man's fallen nature³, they must be controlled by external government which takes the form of Family, Church, and Civil.

Chapter 3: Family Government

Family is the second sphere of government that is the first on our list comprised of more than one member and the first of the external types of government. The job of the family is to provide, nurture, train, and educate their children.⁴ Families are and should be comprised of the husband and the wife. Their children, either their offspring or adopted children that they have taken under their roof, must be nurtured with care by them, trained by them, educated by them, and provided for by them. Fathers and Mothers must both nurture their children from a young age. The Mother is usually the one who nurtures and bears their children. The Father is usually the one who disciplines and provides for the family. Both parents are responsible for training and educating their children however. They are responsible for developing their child's conscience by teaching what is right and what is wrong at a young age so they when they grow older, they will not depart from it nor stray away from the path of righteousness.⁵ They are also the ones who should educate their children and teach in all things including school studies, and life. By training the children, the parents pass on their worldviews, beliefs, and morals onto their children. That means if the parents have crooked beliefs, their children may get them too and if the parents

have straight beliefs, their children may get them as well. Children are molded at a young age and hurtful or edifying words that their rightful parents speak over them can have a drastic impact on the molding of their emotions, attitude, and life, impacting others in a positive or negative way as they grow older. Also, if the parents are fighting, arguing or get divorced, this places a negative impression on a child's life while seeing their parents living a godly life places a positive impression and compels the child to follow their example much better and efficiently than any command would do. Therefore, the family's purpose is to provide for their children, to educate their children properly in the way which is right, to control their finances, to nurture and train their children from an early age, and to use the external force of the rod to discipline their children. It is not physically abusing your child to spank them for not spanking or punishing a child while not develop his conscience and will make all the difference in life if he either is a God-fearing individual who honors God in all his actions or is a atheistic maniac who does things out of the desire for selfish pleasures, lusts, or cravings.⁶ Therefore, the family is an important form of government, commissioned with molding and shaping individuals in their most

tender and malleable time as children for when they grow up and face the challenges of life and work in other spheres of government.

Chapter 4: Church Government

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A Look at Government

The third sphere of government and second form of external government is the Church. The Church's job is to speak the Truth into all other jurisdictions of Government. Thus the church must minister to individuals, to families, and must also minister to the civil sphere. Churches vary in composition but are defined to be, "not the steeple but the people." Therefore, churches are groups of people who congregate to worship God and shepherded by a pastor. The different modes of administration in churches will vary but there are basic rules and foundations for churches. The property given to churches is the Truth. They then have the right to either spread the Truth to all other jurisdictions (which is what they should do) or to confine the truth within the limits of their church walls or even to confine it among the pastors and lie to their congregation (not what a church should do). Churches which do these acts will eventually be punished but those which fulfill their God-given purpose will be rewarded in heaven as Christ and his Bride the Church unite at the end of time. Churches also have the rights of tithes which should 10% of each member's income⁷. Churches should encourage and exhort you to pay your tithe because not paying a tithe is stealing from God and don't hope to escape from God wrath if you are stealing

from him. The other property of the Church, which is from where the Truth comes from, is the Bible. All churches should base themselves off of what the Bible says and shouldn't be making decisions based on worldly philosophies, human interpretations of what God said, or on what they would like things to say. All churches should view the Bible as the inerrant and only Word of God. Therefore armed with the Bible, with the Truth, and with the Holy Spirit, churches should work to minister to all the spheres of government despite possible opposition to fulfill the purpose and to please their Bridegroom, Author, Creator, and Redeemer in Heaven.

Chapter 5: Civil Government

The Civil Government is the fourth sphere and third external force of government. Civil Government comes in many forms including monarchies, dictatorships, communist or socialist states, democracies, republics, constitutional monarchies and so forth. Despite all the complications in government, the best way to find out if a government is operating as it should or if it is a legitimate government is it fulfills all the roles of civil government and if it is taking care of the responsibilities it is given. The main purpose of government is justice⁸. Government should be used to restrain the evil impulses and desires of man and to apply external correction when the family, church, and individual governments have failed to do their role on an individual's life. Civil Governments therefore should reward those citizens who do well and punish those citizens who do bad and break the law. The Property of the Civil Government is the law which they must create. The Law should match up with the law of the Bible and the law of God which should contain at least the commands of "Thou shall not murder, Thou shall not steal, and Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor in court."⁹ It is possible for governments, which are comprised of sinful and fallen men, to encroach upon other spheres of

government and to take what was not theirs to begin with. Government may also end up oppressing the poor and the needy and rewarding the evil while punishing the good. These forms of government are bad and will lead usually to the ruin and destruction of nations and of peoples from the face of the earth. Governments have been given the power of capital punishment (which can range from execution to imprisonment to fines) in order to keep order, enforce their laws (which should be Biblical), and to impose Justice, protecting the needy and punishing the evil.

Chapter 6: A Look at America

To apply the knowledge of these biblical principles, let us examine the history of one nation, the United States of America. The United States was founded on strong Christian and Biblical doctrine by the hands of many God-fearing men. Some of the first people to come to the Americas were God-fearing men. Christopher Columbus, the first man to discover the Americas, was looking for native peoples to bring the gospel to¹⁰. Although, after him, many greedy people came over with little self control and took advantage of the native peoples, others like the Puritans and the Pilgrims came across to America, fleeing religious persecution in England by the definitely unbiblical British King and Parliament. They landed in America and began the tradition of being God-fearing, honest, and hardworking people. As time progressed and they became the Thirteen Colonies of England, they began to long for the freedom from the heavy taxes the British imposed on them for the reasons simply monetary gain and not the administration of Justice. They eventually rebelled in the American Revolution of 1776 and with God grace and with His Hand of Providence, they defeated the King of England and became independent. However, the confederation that they had formed from the Articles of Confederation

wasn't working so they set out to create a Constitution that would establish a new form of government. They remained heavily torn about and bickered about everything the convention until an elder statesman named Benjamin Franklin rose up and gave a short convicting speech: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it"¹¹. The Convention then prayed beseeching God for His wisdom as a result, they created the United States of America, a democracy that still stands today and has stood the test of time despite constant attack by evil Americans and wicked leaders and despite the attempt of the devil to thwart God's plans. The American Democracy was split into three branches, the executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive was headed by the President and was to execute the laws of Congress, the bicameral legislature of the Legislative Body. The Judicial Branch was occupied by an infant Supreme Court, who would later turn our nation around and head us straight into trouble, and other courts which would be created by Congress to help administer Justice. At this time, churches remained an influential part in the early days of the United States since people like Thomas Jefferson even had church services in the US capitol and in the US cabinet buildings.¹²

Families and individuals also held to their jurisdictions, the parents educating and training their children the way they should go and when they grew up, they became prosperous God-fearing and industrious Americans, leading to the fast growing prosperity of our nation. Ever since the 1800s, though a massive debate was ongoing about the legitimacy and morality of slavery. Churches remained highly active in fighting against the measure in the north and trying to influence the government through petitions. They also worked on influencing the families and individuals to help join the cause and send petitions to the United States Government asking them to outlaw slavery. The US Government though dragged its feet because of the amount of corrupt Southern legislators who exercised power in Congress and had a vested interest in slavery. Some Southern churches too also approved of slavery and endorsed, wrongly preaching that African people were created to be inferior to white people. This combined with the government's failure to extend justice to the Black people led to the Civil War. Because of countless amounts of bloodshed by slave owners and the failure of the government in stopping this injustice, God punished the United States with the Civil War. The Southern states seceded from the Union and

attacked US Fort Sumter, starting the war. Their Confederate armies were led by two Christian and highly skilled generals in the names of General Robert Lee and General Stonewall Jackson. The South won victory after victory and the North doubted if God was on their side. But, Abraham Lincoln, the US President at that time, then passed the Emancipation Act which required all slaves to be freed. As if waiting for the Government to take up this responsibility for acting, God then intervened and after the accidental death of Stonewall Jackson (the South's greatest and most able general) and through a series of providential interventions, the South was defeated and the Union was preserved. Nonetheless, much American blood had been shed to atone for blood of the Africans in slavery and to punish the United States for the failures of its individuals, families, churches, and civil government to stop slavery.

By the 1900s, things began to turn for the United States and the train began to go the wrong way again. Influenced by the Suffragette movement of England, American women began to move for the right to vote and demand the same privileges as men, stepping out of their traditional role as a mother and fueling tremors which shook up the structure of the American family. The fledgling of

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