

Lesson 5 More Spheres of Influence

Introduction

“From barbarism to civilization requires a century; from civilization to barbarism needs but a day.” (Will Durant)

Col 1:16-18

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is BEFORE ALL THINGS, and in HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER...he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in EVERYTHING HE MIGHT HAVE THE SUPREMACY.”

Abraham Kuyper (former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and University Chancellor) said,
“There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus does not cry out, “This is mine! This belongs to me!”

“The idea that the service to God should have only to do with a church altar, singing, reading, sacrifice, and the like is without doubt but the worst trick of the devil. How could the devil have led us more effectively astray than by the narrow conception that service to God takes place only in a church and by the works done therein...The whole world could abound with services to the Lord - not only in churches but also in the home, kitchen, workshop, field.” (Martin Luther).

I. **What are the presuppositions of a biblical _____?**

A. God is full of abundance. (Gen 2:10-16).

B. God gives us the ability to produce wealth. (Deut 8:18); (Phil 4:19, Matt 6:25-33).

C. The three primary institutions are directly impacted by economics.

1. Parents.

2. The Church. (Mal 3:8-12); (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37).

3. The_____.

D. Biblical economics begins with understanding stewardship.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it” (Ps 24:1).

E. **Biblical economics is a _____ free market.** (Lk. 19:11-26); (Ex 20:15, 17); (2 Cor. 3:17); (Prov. 11:1).

F. **Biblical economics promotes honest money.** (Lev 19:35-36, Prov. 11:1, 20:10, Amos 8:5-7).

G. **Biblical economics is NOT socialism.**

“Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can.” (John Wesley)

II. What are the presuppositions of a biblical view of _____?

“I’m much afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labour in explaining the holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.” (Martin Luther)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

A. **Biblical Christian education aims to teach that God applies to all of life.**

B. **Biblical Christian education aims to help believers know the Biblical Christian Worldview and all others.**

C. **Biblical Christian education aims to help believers to reinterpret everything based on a Biblical Christian Worldview.**

D. **Parents have the primary _____ to educate their children.**
(Gen 18:19); (Deut 6:1-9, 20).

E. **The church has the secondary responsibility in education.**

F. **The state is not responsible for the education of children.**

The state does not have the mandate to educate children because it pulls them away from parents and may promote worldviews and practices which are in conflict with Biblical Christianity.

G. **Biblical Christian Education should not be left to chance.**

The Bible says, *“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6). It does not say, *“Train up a child in the ways of the world and hopefully somewhere along the way he will get his mind renewed and learn godly values, and discover his destiny.”*

“The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God.” (Johannes Kepler).

H. **Biblical Christian education will give answers to a variety of studies.**

“A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights that God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins.” (Benjamin Franklin).

“The philosophy of education in one generation becomes the philosophy of government in the next.” McDowell & Beliles (Liberating the Nations).

III. What are the presuppositions of a biblical view of Law?

A. A Biblical view of law will seek to base all law and order on _____.
(Prov. 16:10-11).

B. Biblical law will neither absolutise the individual or the group.

C. Biblical law will protect the God-given rights of all citizens.

D. All law should be based on a constitution that embodies the law of God.
(1Sam. 10:25).

E. Law will also be divided between the 3 primary institutions which all submit to God with neither infringing on the others.

1. Parents are the highest authority with their children.
2. Elders are the highest authority in the church.
3. Heads of state are the highest authority in the government.

F. Biblical civil law has _____ attributes.

1. Punishing the guilty and acquitting the innocent (Prov. 17:15, 18:5).
2. A person is innocent until proven guilty (there must be sufficient evidence of guilt).
3. A person can only be convicted after a fair trial, i.e. has representation (an advocate), a chance to defend themselves, and an unbiased jury.
4. The punishment must fit the crime.
5. Perjury must be severely punished.
6. There must be the right of appeal, to ensure justice.
7. Capital punishment (the death penalty) is the ultimate enforcement of law, but should be reserved for premeditated murder (Rom 13:1-7, Gen 9:5-6, Ex 21:12-14, 1 Cor. 3:17).
8. Rulers are not above the law and can be criminally prosecuted (Deut 17:16, 18-20)
9. Only the judiciary have the authority to sentence someone to death (not the executive) (Is 33:22). Presidential pardons are a debatable issue – they can sometimes undermine the due process of law.
10. Restitution must be made where possible (Ex 22:1-15).
11. Sentences must be carried out swiftly (Eccl 8:11).

IV. What are the presuppositions of a biblical view of the Arts, Media and Entertainment?

We will use the umbrella term ‘art’ to include media and entertainment.

A. A Biblical view of art will recognise that _____ is of ultimate beauty.

B. A Biblical view of art acknowledges that not all art is subjective.

- Not all art is subjective because God has an opinion on art that is absolute. To God, beauty is holiness, so we can judge certain art forms as not beautiful and as perverted.
- Phil 4:8 gives us a guideline for judging art. That is, our art should be true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.

C. A Biblical view of art recognises that God appreciates art.

D. A Biblical view of art is not limited to biblical imagery.

E. A Biblical view of art embraces God as the ultimate Creator and _____.

F. A Biblical view of arts can be used to convey the Gospel.

“The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.” (Johan Sebastian Bach).

“Give me the making of the songs of a nation and I care not who rights its laws.” (Andrew Fletcher).

“When the mode of the music changes the walls of the city shake.” (Plato).

V. What are the presuppositions of the Biblical view of State / Civil government?

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary.” (James Madison).

“Sin cannot be overcome by human devices of the kind that government wield but only by suffering and by grace.” (Glenn Tinder).

A. Government is necessary as long as man is _____.

B. God instituted civil government to protect life, _____ and property. (Gen 9:5-7).

C. God’s mandate for civil government is twofold.

(Rom. 13:1-7 and 1 Pet 2:13-14, 17).

1. To commend and protect citizens
2. To punish evildoers.

D. Capital punishment is _____.

The civil government has been given the physical sword (Rom 13:4) so that in cases of premeditated murder that may use it to execute criminals (Gen 9:6). Note that capital punishment was delegated to man 400 years before the Mosaic Law and reaffirmed in the New Testament. This is because, *“He [civil-government] is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”* (Rom 13:4).

E. The state also has the function of *defending* its citizens in war.

F. The state should never try to play the role of God or the other institutions.

G. The state should have decentralised power. (Is. 33:22).

H. A Biblical Christian view of government is based on specific principles and features.
The Bible does not pinpoint a form of government, but whatever form is chosen it should be based on the following features.

1. governments must establish their legitimacy upon the will of a self-governing people; [Deuteronomy 17:4-10]
2. government's first duty is to protect the life, property, and other God-ordained, inalienable rights of the citizenry; [Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Acts 5:1-4; Ezekiel 46:18; Genesis 34:10; Luke 10:7; I Timothy 5:18; Romans 4:4]
3. governments must operate under the rule of law, diligently applying the same legal rules and sanctions without regard to any individual's power or stations in life; [Romans 2:11] hence, the president or king should never be above the law [Deuteronomy 17:18-20].

All of these principles can be seen to some extent in the Hebrew Republic and were further enforced by Jesus' teaching.

Adapted from Partick Henry College (Statement of Biblical Worldview).

I. A Biblical Christian view of government recognises that national boundaries need to be respected.

(Acts 17:26, Rev 21:24, 22:2).

J. A Biblical Christian view of government does not encourage centralisation.

K. Biblical Christian view of government will impact taxation laws.

“The state should concentrate on enforcing justice and avoid meddling in other institution’s business.” (Tim Lahaye & David Noebel).

VI. The Biblical Christian Worldview creates specific Attitudes, Moods & _____.

VII. What are the primary attributes of God revealed in each sphere?

- **Arts, Entertainment & Sports: pleasure (Deut. 31:19-22).**
 - Names/Characteristics of God are Artist, Potter, Poet & Athlete (Isa. 64:8; Rom. 9:21)
 - Primary attributes are beauty, uniqueness, restoration and joy (Ps. 27:4)
 - Purpose- to provide rest, relaxation and restoration to our body, mind and soul through beauty, recreation, music and enjoyment.

- **Business & Economics: Provision/stewardship (Deut. 15:1-10; 24:6).**
 - Name/Character of God is Provider (Gen. 22:14)
 - Primary attributes are goodness & provision (Ps. 27:13); stewardship (Gen. 1:28)
 - Purpose- to provide for the needed goods and services and gainful employment opportunities for the community at a fair market value. The laws of “Sowing & Reaping” and “Supply & Demand” govern this domain.

- **Church: *Ecclesiastical Structure (Deut.7:5-9).**
 - Name/Character of God is great High Priest (Heb.4:14)
 - Primary attributes are holiness, mercy and forgiveness (Ex. 5:11; Dan. 9:9)
 - Purpose- to provide for the discipleship of all believers in the whole nature and character of God and His Word applied to the work and walk of faith. To facilitate the expression of that faith in worship and in the sacraments of the Church. *(Limited to pastors, evangelists, missionaries, elders, full-time Christian workers, etc.)

- **Media & Communication: Influence (Deut.11:20; 13:12-14).**
 - Name/Characteristic of God is the Living Word, Truth (John 1:1; 16:13)
 - Primary attribute is our will. (Deut. 30:19)
 - Purpose- to provide truthful, objective, information of importance to the community so citizens can make informed, responsible decisions.

- **Education: Development (Deut. 4:1,5).**
 - Name/Character of God is Teacher (Mt. 23:10, 11; Jn. 13:14)
 - Primary attributes are wisdom and knowledge. (Rom.11:33)
 - Purpose – to provide for the development of the God-given gifts in every child for the service of their fellowman and society, believing every child is gifted by God and has the right for those gifts to be developed and used to their highest potential.

- **Family: Relationships & Authority (Deut.5:16, 18, 21; Deut. 6:7-9).**
 - Names/Characters of God are Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:26)
 - Primary attributes are love, nurturing, protection & acceptance (Ps.51:10; Isa.40:11;Rom.15:7)
 - Purpose is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for growth, Biblical values and also education for the next generation.

- **Government: Authority (Deut. 1:9-18).**
 - Name/Character of God is King of Kings (Rev. 19:16)
 - Primary attribute is Justice & righteousness (Ps. 89:14)
 - Purpose is to provide and ensure justice, peace and equality for all citizens including executive, judicial, military and civil services. Government deals with the masses, not individuals.

- **Science & Technology: Discovery (Deut. 23:12-14).**

- Name/Character of God is Creator (Gen. 14:19)

- Primary attributes are power & order (2 Cor.20:6)

- Purpose is to discover and use God's laws for the blessing of all people, pursuing higher standard of living, better health and better stewardship of the resources of His creation. We are led to a greater revelation of God in nature, technology and creation.

These attributes are adapted from Old Testament Template: Relearning to Disciple Nation's God's Way. (Landa Cope).