

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #7

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**“Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship:
Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team”**

Threefold Cord: Living and Building Relationally

MASTER PRINCIPLE #7

Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity.

Key scriptures:

Gen. 1:2,26, 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Exod. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 5:16, 12:8, 16:18-20, 17:14-20, 19:14, 24:19; 1 Sam.13:1-14; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; Isa. 1:23, 9:7; Ezek. 45:9-12; Matt. 6:10, 8:21-22, 15:4-7, 16:18,19, 18:15-20, 24:14; Luke 22:24-27; John 1:14, 5:19-20,30, 14:26,28, 16:7,13, 17:all; Acts 14:23, 20:17; Rom. 6:1-8, 8:17, 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:9-13, 11:1-3, 12:4-6, 15:28; 2 Cor. 10:13-16; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 1:18-23, 2:10, 4:all, 5:22-24; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:18-22; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5: 8,17; Titus 1:5, 3:9-11; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 5:1

Key concepts found in this lesson:

God models His Kingdom government structures for all mankind in every cultural and historical context.

1. Within the Trinity, which is our pattern for building, God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through a division of labor.
2. Godly government produces empowerment, proprietorship, and prosperity, whereas ungodly government produces frustration, disengagement, and poverty.
3. The five functioning spheres of government must be biblically inter-related for God's Kingdom to manifest properly.
4. The Church "universal" is operating wherever believers are manifesting their ministries in faith, whereas the local church is a specific place of belonging and equipping.

How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:

Key business applications:

A sound organizational structure balances executive authority with group ownership, and promotes this model in all spheres for its members.

1. A healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor.
2. Organizational health and profit, in the long run, are the inevitable result of good government.
3. A healthy business organization emphasizes health in all five spheres of government for all members.
4. Believers are to give themselves to the "assembling together of the saints," and their ministry in the marketplace as their calling requires.

You are called to co-manage God's creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

Study • Train • Obey

“Jurisdictions, Authority, and Proprietorship: Understanding the Nature of a Winning Team”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #7:

Functioning biblical government is essential for lasting productivity.

- A. This lesson deals with a number of critical issues relative to building organizational effectiveness, harmony, and individual fulfillment.
 - 1. The biblical foundations for government are found within the Trinity, as we have already noted in several lessons. Our mandate is to build all things after God’s patterns.
 - 2. Biblical principles are not culturally relative; truth cuts across all cultures.
- B. We will be dealing with God’s methodology of “separated powers” in the five spheres of God-ordained human government.
 - 1. These issues will also touch the balancing tension of executive authority and group participation in organizational decision-making and execution.
 - 2. We will also discuss the concepts of the Church universal, the Church triumphant, and the local church.

II. Within the Trinity, which is our pattern for building, God models a functioning team of co-equals who execute their goals through a division of labor (Gen. 1:2; Isa. 9:7; Matt. 6:10, 24:14; Luke 22:24-27; John 1:14, 5:19-20,30, 14:26,28, 16:7,13; 1 Cor. 11:1-3, 12:4-6, 15:28; 2 Cor. 10:13-15; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:18-22; Heb. 1:3).

- A. In Christ, we are called to manage godly principles, not cultural norms or relativism.
 - 1. While cultures may be in conflict, truth is not.
 - 2. Cultural sensitivity is not the same as cultural compliance. God’s Kingdom culture and government is our common future (Isa. 9:7).
- B. Without structure, rules, authority, and agreement (i.e., government), God’s Kingdom on earth cannot be realized, even initially (Matt. 24:14).
 - 1. Government precedes peace as Isaiah 9:7 declares.
 - a. Godly government produces order, initiative, safety, and progress.
 - b. When man’s government replaces God’s government, there is disorder, dependency, peril, and regression.
 - 2. The Godhead is the source of all life, and out from it God extends His created beings’ entry into His government, covenants, and life-destiny.
 - a. Because God uses the principles of government (unified purpose, division of labor, service to another, humility, and respect for others) within Himself, in order to follow his Creator, man must likewise embrace the laws of God’s government for himself.
 - b. Godly government, if followed, creates for man an atmosphere of peace and creativity that blesses God and allows man to follow His destiny.
 - c. The new birth in Christ is a transfer of governmental allegiance from the govern-

ment of self and Satan to the government of God and His Kingdom.

3. The government within the Trinity models and embodies both what we must submit to and what we must extend (Matt. 6:10).
 - a. There is hierarchy in the Godhead and God's government.
 - b. Christ is submitted to Father's authority (John 14:28; 1 Cor. 11:1-3) even though He is fully God Himself (Phil. 2:1-11) (Ontological equality).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is under the Father and the Son's sending authority (John 14:26; 16:7) (Economic subordination).
 - d. The Son lives to exalt the Father (1 Cor. 15:28); the Father lives to exalt the Son (Col. 1:18-22); and the Holy Spirit lives to exalt Jesus (John 14:26, 16:13) because their government is based on service (Luke 22:24-27).
 - e. Their government has spheres of labor; the Father directs the plans (John 5:19-20,30); the Son incarnates the plans (John 1:14) and holds them together by the power of His Word (Heb. 1:3); and the Holy Spirit energizes the plans (Gen. 1:2; 1 Cor. 12:4-6).
 - f. Proper order always recognizes the appropriateness of spheres of labor (2 Cor. 10:13-15).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that models of leadership and management of tasks must constantly adapt to fit the needs of the organization and its surrounding culture.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, a healthy authority/management model balances executive authority with group participation and a division of labor.

III. Godly government produces empowerment, proprietorship, and prosperity, whereas ungodly government produces frustration, disengagement, and poverty (Gen. 1:26; Isa. 9:7; John 17:all; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 1:18-23).

- A. Good government precedes and produces peace (order) (Isa. 9:7).
 1. Government (rulership) promotes service, work by design, and people doing what they are designed to do.
 2. God's destiny has been instilled into Christ's people who will embody God's rulership within themselves (Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 1:18-23).
- B. Government has three major sources of energy.
 1. It has authority out of the agreement of those in power (the badges).
 2. It has the power to enforce that agreement (the gun).
 3. It operates through commissioning, that is, faith extended and received.
- C. When peace, productivity, and internal-external growth diminish within any organization, government has broken down at its core.

1. Godly government (following God’s design) functions in council (Gen. 1:26) and under the leadership of the executive function as well (John 17:all).
2. Either too much focus on the vertical dimension of government (authoritarianism), or too much emphasis on the horizontal dimension of government (egalitarianism) throws the “wheel” totally out of balance.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that authoritarianism is the hallmark of Christianity and has no place in modern workplace authority or management structures.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, organizational health and profit, in the long run, are the inevitable result of good government.

IV. The five functioning spheres of government must be biblically inter-related for God’s Kingdom to manifest properly (Gen. 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Exo. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 5:16, 12:8, 16:18-20, 17:14-20, 19:14, 24:19; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; 1 Sam. 13:1-14; Isa. 1:23; Ezek. 45:9-12; Matt. 6:10, 8:21-22, 15:4-7; Acts 14:23, 20:17; Rom. 6:1-8, 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 10:13-16; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 2:10, 4:all, 5:22-24; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5:8,17; Titus 1:5, 3:9-11; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 5:1).

- A. There are three major structures of government as revealed in scripture.
 1. Family government (Gen. 12:1-3, 18:17-19; Deut. 5:16; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 2. Church government (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:all; Titus 3:9-11).
 3. Civil government (Deut. 16:18-20; Isa. 1:23; Ezek. 45:9-12; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).
- B. Two additional spheres of government, which must be understood, are revealed in the Bible, in order to effectively disciple a nation.
 1. Self-government (Prov. 16:32; 25:28; Rom. 6:1-8; 1 Tim. 3:5).
 2. Commercial government (Deut. 24:19; Eph. 2:10; Titus 1:5).
- C. Let us quickly look at these five spheres.
 1. Self-government:
 - a. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
 - b. Self-government allows us to obey God by taking control of ourselves and submitting all our will and power to His disciplines.
 2. Family government:
 - a. The husband is to be in authority within the sphere of family government, but function in full counsel with his wife (Eph. 5:22-24).
 - b. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
 - c. Unresolved self-government or family government problems end up under the authority of the civil government.
 3. Church government:

- a. Church government functions both extra-locally through Christ's ascension gifts of church equipping (Eph. 4:12 – Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Evangelists) and locally through Elders (Acts 14:23, 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:all, 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1) and Pastors.
 - b. All five of these gifts interface locally and extra-locally to help bring the people of God to maturity.
 4. Civil government:
 - a. Civil government is biblically detailed in the Old Testament (Deut. 16:18-20, 17:14-20; Isa. 1:23), and re-confirmed in the New Testament (Rom. 13:1-7).
 - b. Civil government is primarily concerned with maintaining peace, order, protection, and justice for the community and nation.
 5. Commercial government:
 - a. Commercial government within our modern law base has extensive rights and responsibilities (Exod. 20:15-16; Lev. 19:35-37; Deut. 19:14; 24:19).
 - b. As we have already noted, the stewardship of private property is essential to personal and social maturity.
- D. Tyranny within the five spheres of government is a historical problem and centers in the notion of balance and imbalance, and staying within assigned borders (2 Cor. 10:13-16).
 1. Tyranny occurs when one sphere of government superimposes its authority on another sphere and limits that sphere's ability to function.
 2. Tyranny is a constant issue in human history in many forms:
 - a. Tyranny through misplaced self-government (Deut. 12:8).
 - b. Tyranny through misplaced family government (Matt. 8:21-22).
 - c. Tyranny through misplaced church government (Matt. 15:4-7).
 - d. Tyranny through misplaced commercial government (Fascism).
 - e. Tyranny through misplaced civil government (1 Sam. 13:1-14).
 3. We believe that there are five major strategies for building a godly nation:
 - a. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
 - b. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
 - c. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
 - d. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
 - e. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.
 4. We must understand the nature of true freedom and how tyranny works to destroy it.
 - a. Freedom is defined as the condition of peace, harmony, and productivity resulting when God's government is functioning as He intends (Matt. 6:10).
 - b. Freedom means serving God's purposes unhindered by sin.

c. Tyranny means that some form of rebellion against God-ordained government has taken place. This usually occurs by the illegal accumulation of power or rights by subordinates (rebellion) or by one sphere of government over another (usurpation).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that religious views of a comprehensive, unified social government are the enemy of free democratic societies.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, a healthy organization emphasizes health in all five spheres of government for all members. Free democratic societies can only succeed where there is God-ordained government, beginning with self-government under God.

V. The Church “universal” is operating wherever believers are manifesting their ministries in faith, whereas the local church is a specific place of belonging and equipping (Matt. 16:18,19, 18:15-20).

- A. Some important closing comments on the nature of the church are in order.
 - 1. The word “church” only occurs twice in the gospels (Matt. 16:18, 18:17).
 - 2. The word “church,” used by the Holy Spirit to communicate a critical part of the identity of God’s people, is the Greek word “Ekklesia.”
 - 3. The Ekklesia was a Greek civil governing body, not a religious body.
 - 4. The word “Ekklesia” literally means “those called out,” or elected to rule. It has nothing to do with buildings. It is a judicial body (Matt. 16:19, 18:15-20). There are major implications to these truths.
- B. The Ekklesia has three major manifestations:
 - 1. The Church universal (all earthly believers).
 - 2. The Church triumphant (the saints with Christ).
 - 3. The local church (where believers act and live in specific spiritual community).
 - 4. Wherever believers are (the workplace) some dimension of church is operating there because those elected by God to rule are there!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the “church” is where believers congregate, worship, care for one another, and execute the “business of the church.”
Key Business Applications	The truth is, believers are to give themselves to the “assembling together of the saints,” and their ministry in the marketplace as their calling requires. The Church “universal” is operating wherever believers are manifesting their ministries in faith, whereas the local church is a specific place of belonging and equipping.