

L1 | Divine Institutions | Introduction to Divine Institutions | 1 Tim. 3:15-16

I. Intro/Review:

1. Why examine divine institutions? The church is the church of the living God - it is the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - 1.1 - God has given to the church, the word of truth, forged by the Spirit of truth, to the church the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - 1.2 - To what degree, to what extent, to what measure - to wit, the truth of all things.
 - 1.3 - Jesus Christ is the truth (Jn. 14:6), His kingdom is a kingdom of light (Col. 12:12), and in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - 1.4 - Know Christ and know all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
2. In a corrupt, evil, and dark world and nation we have seen the vexation of God's institutions. History has seen the corruption and degradation of them.
 - 2.1 - Man rejects God and any accountability toward Him.
 - 2.2 - Man seeks to cancel marriage with all lewdness and deviation from that which God ordained.
 - 2.3 - Man labors to demolish the patriarchy, usually defined by them, and break down the family.
 - 2.4 - Man with his heart corrupted with lusts yield to leaders that will grant them those lusts and governments abuse their power, lie, cheat, steal, etc.
 - 2.4.1 - The fundamental use for government isn't usually carried out that is to restrain violence
 - 2.4.2 - Rather the good are evil and the evil good.
3. For us that believe the gospel none of these things should surprise us
 - 3.1 - God is holy, righteous, and true
 - 3.2 - Man is unclean, wicked, and loves darkness
 - 3.3 - Christ died on the Cross
 - 3.3.1 - God's absolute abhorrence for sin
 - 3.3.2 - God's love for sinners
 - 3.4 - Believing the gospel is to
 - 3.4.1 - Acknowledge you're a sinner without excuse and escape in yourself
 - 3.4.2 - Believe from the heart that Christ paid the wages of you sin debt in God's sight
 - 3.5 - For us we don't have confidence in our own reasoning, opinions, thoughts, etc - although we are new in Christ we live in these mortal bodies, and in this present evil world, moreover,

when we believe the gospel it is a growing process to be enlightened to truth about all things - such as,

3.5.1 - Business, Marriage, Family, Government, and the Church

4. Therefore, as the church with and by the gospel and the word of truth we are to know the truth about these institutions, be its pillar and ground, and any thought that exalts itself the knowledge of God in these things we are to bring it into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

4.1 - There is a war upon these divine institutions, that is, the arenas of God to love others and not only does man not love, but because they cannot they discern the problem isn't themselves thus the solution is to destroy these systems, these institutions.

5. My concern and purpose for this series isn't to reform that which cannot be reformed

5.1 - For the flesh cannot be reformed, but must be crucified, denied, but also one must be saved and walk after the Spirit

5.2 - Rather, that we would clearly understand who gave these institutions, for what purpose, what they are, how we are to function within them, and the blessing we experience when we do.

5.3 - My purpose is that as the church we ought to preserve these things in doctrine, speech, and all manner of life within them not expecting man to do what only the church can really do.

3.

3.1

II. Preview:

1. Who gave them and why?
2. Defining Divine Institutions
 - 2.1 - Institutions
 - 2.2 - Divine
3. Overview of the Divine Institutions
 - 3.1 - Business
 - 3.2 - Marriage
 - 3.3 - Family
 - 3.4 - Gov't/Nationalism
 - 3.5 - Church

III. Sermon:

1. **Who gave them and why?**
 - 1.1 - God is One in three persons. There is One God in essence and from that essence the

three persons mutually share the benefits of their essence. They are One and relationally enjoy that which they are.

1.2 - God is love and they love each other

1.2.1 - 1 Jn. 4:16 - God is love

- Part of His essence and from that essence they share such love among their persons
- God is love therefore God is a loving God
- Amongst Himself
- Toward man

1.2.2 - Jn. 17:24 - "...for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

- With God as the Godhead there is authority and love
- When God makes man this will not only be reflected and revealed to man, but God (among many reasons) gives to man these institutions to know God in authority and love.
 - Each divine institution has an authority and love complex - not one or the other, but and/both.

1.3 - God makes man for His eternal purpose part of which is to know Him. {Jn. 17}

1.4 - God has provided temporary institutions as one way to know Him.

2. Defining Divine Institutions

2.1 - Institutions

- A relational structure instituted by God for God and man.
- All are given for all the world
- They are the fundamentals of any society

2.2 - Divine

- Not concoctions or conceptions of man
- Given by the Godhead as gifts of His divine nature
 - 2 Pet. 1:4

IV. Conclusion: