

Some Words We Should Know for Order

Many times, when we read the word of God, we miss the total meaning or the purpose. In the operations of the church, Devine Order and Government of the church are blurred too many times. Here are some key words and usage, when you read the word of God.

1. PRINCIPLE: The inherent nature, essential character, and unchanging essence of TRUTH that is basic to all other truths and righteous laws. As Christians, we know that God's own character is that basis. (Heb. 5:12; 1 Jn. 1:5; 2 Cor. 13:11; Heb. 12:29; 1 Jn. 4:8,11,16)

2. COMMANDMENT: What God emphatically orders and requires of humanity and for which we will be brought into account by Him. (Pro. 6:23; 13:13; 19:16)

3. STATUTE: A permanent law or rule of conduct. (Psa. 119:8; Exo. 15:25,26; Lev. 3:17)

4. LAW: A non-permanent law or rule of conduct which a community considers binding on its members as long as it is in effect. (Heb. 7:12; 10:1; Exo. 13:9; 16:4; 24:12; Rom. 8:12; James 1:25)

5. PRECEPT: A written instruction or direction regarding a given course of action, especially concerning morals. To be distinguished from counsel. (Psa. 119:4, 5, 15, 27, 55, 56, 63, 69, 78, 87, 93, 100, 104, 128, 141, 159)

6. DOCTRINE/TEACHING: That which is reasoned out and taught or presented for acceptance or belief to be held as true. (Isa. 28:9; 29:24; Mt. 7:28,29; 16:12; Jn. 7:16,17; Acts 2:42; Rom. 6:17; 16:17; 1 Tim 4:13,16; 5:17)

7. CONVICTION: The state or condition of being convinced or fully awakened to awareness to a doctrine or proposition in which one firmly believes. (Rom. 4:21; 8:38; 15:14; 2 Tim. 1:2; Acts 18:28; 1 Cor. 14:24; James 2:8-10)

8. STANDARD: A type, model or image for comparison which serves as an example of excellence. (1 Tim. 4:12; James 5:10)

9. CUSTOM: The ordinary or usual manner of doing or acting. The habitual common practice of a community of people. (Lk. 2:27, 42; 4:16; Jn. 18:39; 1 Cor. 11:16)

10. PREFERENCE: The state of choice to hold something or someone in higher regard or esteem than something or someone which is liked less. (1 Tim. 5:21; Rom. 12:10; Php. 2:3)
(see for **"DIVINE ORDER"**, **"GOVERNMENTS"** and **"TRADITION"**)

A SIMPLE EXAMPLE:

- USING **"CREAM IN COFFEE"**:

as a Preference:

"I prefer cream in my coffee."

as a Custom:

"I always drink it that way, it is my custom."

as a Standard:

"Everybody ought to drink cream in their coffee. It's the best way to get full flavor!"

as a Conviction:

"I will die before I give up my creamy coffee!"

as a Doctrine:

"Persons who drink coffee without cream are either ignorant or rebellious."

as a Precept:

"To each cup of hot coffee, add one tablespoon of cold cream and stir slowly until blended."

as a Law:

"To control independence, everyone will put cream in their coffee when they drink it."

as a Statute:

"From the very beginning, God had Adam and Eve drink their coffee with cream in it."

as a Commandment:

"You shall have cream in your coffee or God will bring you into judgment!"

as a Principle:

"God Himself always drinks cream in His coffee."

- A GOOD EXAMPLE :

- USING **"LOVING FAITHFULNESS"**:

as a Preference:

"I prefer to be married to my current spouse above all others."

as a Custom:

"I make it a habit to be faithful and loving to my spouse."

as a Standard:

"We work together to be an example of the relationship between Christ and His church."

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as a **Conviction:**

“...until death parts us.”

as a **Doctrine:**

“He that finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.”

as a **Precept:**

“Husbands love your wives as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.”

as a **Law:**

“Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses suffered you to put away your wives.”

as a **Statute:**

“.. but from the beginning, it was not so!”

as a **Commandment:...**

” Love one another as I have loved you.”

as a **Principle:**

“God is love.”

11. DIVINE ORDER: This is God’s successive arrangement of things which results in those conditions in which He is most pleased to work. Only God Himself can change it. (1 Cor. 11:3; 12:28; Eph. 4:11; Jn. 4:34; 5:23,30; 6:44; 15:16; Acts 2:7)

12. GOVERNMENTS: Changeable forms of management by which local churches are governed. It is each pastor’s responsibility to set it up. It may differ from other governmental forms due to local needs. It should never be considered as, or seek to replace, the one, true Divine Order. (1 Cor. 12:28 *note the plurality*; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17)

13. TRADITION: The transmission of knowledge, opinions, doctrine, customs and standards from one generation to another. (1 Cor. 11:2; Mt. 15:2,3; Mk. 7:8,9; 2 Thes. 3:6)

Conclusion:

The most basic form of Divine Order is the choosing and sending of Jesus Christ by God the Father.

Jesus did not come “of himself” but he was SENT.

This reveals a PRINCIPAL that is found in any manifestation of true Divine Order. **Any person who “comes in their OWN name” is not in God’s Order.**

Another earmark: Jesus said the words he spoke were NOT his own, but what God had commanded him to say. Therefore, whoever speaks “of” (or from) himself is seeking his own glory and is

obviously not in Divine Order in doing so.

Divine Order is, God being the head of Jesus, and Jesus, in turn, being the head of those whom God gives him to make into fishers of men. Then when God places those men over his people, they become heads over all those that God daily adds to his church.

Now, each God-given pastor MUST create some form of government to adequately manage the natural running of his local assembly. If he has two or more congregations, he has the right to set up differing forms of local government according to their needs. He is not “setting up” Divine Order, but is OPERATING IN Divine Order, and God expects him to do it.

It is commonly understood that a new minister with little or no experience will not be able to manage as well as his more experienced minister. This is one of the reasons that the ministers counsel with their former pastors, as well as with one another. We are constantly looking for more effective ways to improve our local assemblies. It is extremely important to realize that a man’s gift from God to minister is not the same thing as his LEARNED ability to manage or govern. Older congregations with young pastors many times must exercise loving patience.

Good management or government is always open to good suggestions. Divine Order is not. Who is able to instruct God? Good management can be improved upon, Divine Order cannot. We simply need to SUBMIT to Divine Order, and it will improve US. How and when the church is cleaned, and who does it, comes under government, as well as other positions in the church that are set up by man for the convenience of man. Ministerial positions in the church that are ordained and set in place by God Himself, are manifestations of Divine Order.

Acts 6:2,3 is a clear record of the difference. The CHURCH was instructed to set up a government to take care of the local needs, so that the apostles would be free to remain in Divine Order. Ignoring the difference between “governments” and “Divine Order” will always result in confusion for both the ministry and the people.