

GLOBAL LIFE CAMPAIGN™

5 Spheres of Authority & Responsibility:

Time to Recover & Respect, with application to human life versus abortion

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On Sunday in our online home church meeting, we had an energetic discussion about jurisdiction and current issues that I thought you might also appreciate. Jurisdiction is a big word that means a sphere of authority and responsibility. The first time I became aware of this concept was in 1983 through the late Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer, when I was studying under him in Switzerland. He encouraged me to look for what he saw through his extensive Biblical, philosophical and historical research. He discovered that any human matter usually fit within five distinct areas of limited authority and responsibility: individual, family, church, business or private sector, or civil government. Since then, as I studied the Scriptures, public policy and history of nations, I've been amazed at the accuracy of his proposition, and that this was innately understood in generations past. This week's *GLC Series* will identify the foundations of these five spheres, and then apply them to one issue, *the sanctity of human life* versus abortion. You can then consider their application to other areas. It is time to recover and respect these God-given spheres of authority and responsibility in order to restore our nation.

5 Spheres of Authority and Responsibility:

Each jurisdiction has its own sphere of authority, responsibility and accountability to God.

- (1) Self-government (Adam [Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6-11, 17-19]; Eve [Genesis 3:1-8, 13, 16]).
- (2) Marriage and family: created and ordained by God (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6).
 - Designed to reflect the loving, honoring and complementary relationships and roles within the Godhead (1 Corinthians 11:1-3; Ephesians 5:22-33).
 - Children given by God to parents through their union (Genesis 4:1-2, 25).
 - Children to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1; Hebrews 5:8).
 - Parents responsible for the education of their children (Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:4-9, 20-25; Psalm 78:1-8; Ephesians 6:4).
 - Honor your parents – a lifetime duty (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3).
- (3) Business/private sector: ordered and ordained by God (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:5-9, 15; 3:17-19; 4:2, 17, 20-22; 6:14; Colossians 3:23).
- (4) Civil Government: created and ordained by God (Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 18:21; Deuteronomy 1:13-17; 16:16-18; Matthew 22:21 [“render to Caesar”]; Romans 13:1-7).
 - Create and enforce civil laws consistent with the Law of God, which is the only fixed, uniform and universal basis for just law (2 Kings 23:24; Psalm 19:7-11; Romans 13:2).
 - Encourage “good behavior” and be “an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil” (Romans 13:3-4).
 - Establish justice, including death penalty for anyone lawfully found guilty of intentional murder and shedding innocent human blood (Genesis 9:5-6; Numbers 35:29-34).

(5) **Church:** God has always been seeking a people to be His people, a holy people (Genesis 18:19; Exodus 6:7; Leviticus 11:44-45; 26:11-12; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:9; 3:11-13).

- Created and ordained by God (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:14, 18, 27-28).
- The Body of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:12).
- Priests and apostles (Exodus 28:1; Matthew 10:1-4).
- Prophet (Exodus 7:1; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; 24:11-14; Matthew 11:7-15).
- Education: “The pillar and support of the truth,” and guardian, teacher, and proclaimer of the Word of God and Law of God (1 Timothy 3:15; Numbers 31:21; 2 Kings 22:8; 23:24; 2 Chronicles 15:3; Ezra 7:12, 21; Nehemiah 8:2, 9; Colossians 1:25).
- Humble themselves before God, repent of own and national sins, and pray and intercede for community and nation (2 Chronicles 7:13-14; Isaiah 56:7).
- Defender of freedom of belief, mind, conscience, worship (Daniel 3; 6; Acts 4).

Here are a few of my general observations:

- When we conform to the Divine Design and respect each jurisdiction, then everything works together in harmony and complementarity.
- The system of authority in one sphere does not violate that authority in another sphere.
- Clarity of purpose, clarity responsibility, and clarity of boundaries.
- God’s design produces good fruits, but violating His design produces bad fruits.
- Violation of another sphere can result in just cause for removal (1 Samuel 13).

Application to Sanctity of Human Life versus Abortion:

Now let’s look at how the five spheres apply to respecting the sanctity of human life and preventing abortion. When each individual (self-government) lives sexually pure, cherishes and protects human life, and votes only for candidates committed to protect life, liberty, and family; when each husband and wife are open to receive children and nourish and protect them; when clergy teach about the sanctity of human life and evil of abortion; when businesses and institutions value fatherhood and motherhood, and encourage families and childbearing; and when civil government protects human life from conception; then all human life will be cherished and abortion will be unthinkable and illegal. Keep all this in mind as you vote. Take time to know the positions of candidates whom you will grant civil power.

SDG and for the sanctity of human life,

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“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Romans 11:33).