

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Government

Government of-by-and-for the People

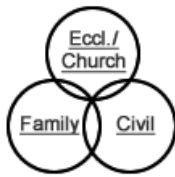
Dr. Earle E. Lee

How many forms of government did God ordain in the HIS-story of creation? God ordained three forms of government recorded in His Word, the Bible. In order, they are:

1. First, God-ordained family government in Genesis. He created Adam and Eve, and commanded them to multiply and to replenish the earth. Family government involved husband, wife, and children with parental responsibilities to govern the family. The family would raise children to become mature, respectful adults who would marry and create more units of family government (Genesis 1 & 2).
2. Second, God-ordained civil government, as evidenced by the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. These concise commandments dealt with man's relationship to God first. They established life principles for how each individual in the society should treat his fellow man, woman, and child. These

principles formed the basis of the laws of the USA, which made our country great.

3. Third, God created ecclesiastical/church government as seen in Colossians 1:18: “And he is the head of the body, the church...”, and verse 24, “... The afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.” Christ started the church, which exists today, and gave specific governing principles for the church.



Three perfect interlocking circles can best illustrate these three God-ordained governments with the church at the top, family, and civil government side by side below that.

Here are distinct roles for each form of government that our founding fathers recognized in order to create a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In brief they are:

1. The family had the authority and responsibility to govern the family with father and mother working together to raise and govern the children. Civil government and ecclesiastical/church government had no authority over the family other than encouraging strong families in their duties as the basic unit of good government and churches. Civil leadership was never to usurp family governmental duties.
2. Civil government had the authority to provide national defense, protect civil liberties by rewarding good and punishing evildoers, and exercise capital punishment.

Family and ecclesiastical/church government were to support the civil government in its duties, but never to usurp civil governmental responsibilities.

3. The Ecclesiastical/church had authority and responsibility to lead the individuals that made up the family to a right relationship with their Creator by understanding God's purpose for their lives here on earth and after death. Family and civil government were never to usurp ecclesiastical/church governmental authority to themselves.

The illustration above depicts the trinity of God-ordained governments, patterned after the triune Creator God. It is revealed by the interlocking of the circles that each of the governments work together to create harmony through the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, while supporting each other's distinct God-ordained roles.

In God's order of establishing three governmental bodies, it is abundantly clear that individuals that make up family government are and must be the individuals that are involved in civil and ecclesiastical/church government. Christian family members that do not get involved by voting and running for office in civil government and are not actively involved in ecclesiastical/church affairs are failing to meet God's ordained role of the members that make up family government.

May God grant each of you the wisdom to exercise your God-ordained role as an individual in the elections of 2020

and beyond. Fulfill your role in the government of the people, by the people, and for the people that our founding fathers gave us to make our country the great country it is.

“The things that are wrong with the country today are the total of all the things that are wrong with us as individuals.” — Charles W. Tobey

A Dangerous Omission

Christian Herald

The closing part of Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg address reads, “We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” It is a wonderful ideal, but are we not in danger of omitting those two vital words, “under God”? A “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” may be little more than a form of tyranny. However, a government of the people, for the people under God, is a form of government that honors God, that submits to His righteous rule, and that is exalted thereby. Unfortunately, we are not seeing governments that honor God today.

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.” *II Chron. 7:14*

“Only Way Out Is Up!”

Walter B. Knight

On a gray morning during World War I, the Prime Minister of Britain, David Lloyd George, stood grim-faced before his compeers, members of the British Cabinet. The seriousness of the situation was evident upon the faces of all. David Lloyd George said, “Gentlemen, we are fighting with our backs to the wall. The only way out is up; our only hope is God; let us pray!” When nations turn to God in their trouble, deliverance is not distant.

“Arguments seldom settle things, but prayer changes things!”

Lincoln’s Concern

Baptist Standard

One day, when the Civil War was raging its worst, a minister said to Lincoln, “I surely hope the Lord is on our side.”

Lincoln replied, “I am not at all concerned about that, for I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right, but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I, and this nation, should be on the Lord’s side.”

“America may die from the delusion she has moral leadership!” — *Will Rogers*

The Greatness of America

Author Unknown

About two hundred years ago, De Tocqueville of France visited America. Upon returning home, he wrote, “I sought for the greatness of America in her harbors and rivers and fertile fields, and her mines and commerce. It was not there. Not until I went into churches and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the greatness of her power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

Why Washington Succeeded

Sunday School Times

In United States history, you may read how George Washington found rest and relief in prayer during the trying times he and his soldiers faced at Valley Forge. With all the cares and anxieties of that time upon him, he used to have recourse in prayer.

One day a farmer, approaching the camp, heard an earnest voice. On coming nearer, he saw George Washington on his knees, his cheeks wet with tears, praying to God. The farmer returned home and said to his wife, “George Washington will succeed! Americans will secure their independence!”

“What makes you think so, Isaac?” asked his wife.

The farmer replied, “I heard him pray, Hannah, out in the woods today, and the Lord will surely hear his prayer. He

will, Hannah. Thee may rest assured He will.”

“Lord, Teach America to Pray!”

Author Unknown

And as her flag unfurls on high
Its starry splendor to the sky,
May we, in grateful thanks to Thee
Who gave to us this land so free,
Preserve her freedom in Thy way.
Lord, teach America to pray!

May our good land be true and just,
Her motto e'er “In God we Trust.”
May she be guided by Thy Word,
Thy wisdom in her halls be heard.
May all who love her plead today,
Lord, teach America to pray!

“Do not face the day until you have faced God!”

— *Author Unknown*