

D. Nation

We have been noting for some while now the presence of authority within national entities. In the United States the powers granted to government are relinquished by the people.

The Scripture orders us to keep on subordinating ourselves to governing authorities and to keep on doing good of intrinsic value. There is no reason to reiterate this authority structure at this point since we have treated it such detail in recent studies.

Let it be stated however that the Bible draws a distinct division between church and state and commands the believer to submit to the authorities of his host nation. A final note is that the Constitution of the United States does not delineate a separation between church and state but simply prohibits the government from influencing religion.

Therefore, believers of our nation may seek to influence the state but they may not involve themselves in efforts to control the state. It takes spiritual wisdom for believers in the United States to properly manage their political involvement with the state. Although they may be permitted by our Constitution to pursue certain objectives those privileges may be overridden by biblical prohibitions.

For example, the first amendment allows the citizen to petition the state for redress of grievances. This has recently taken the form of demonstrations, marches, and even civil disobedience. Although the First Amendment may permit such expression, the Bible does not and thus this human freedom is prohibited the believer.

From our study on authority structures in the divine institutions we learned four very important principles:

- a. Each divine institution has its own positions of authority.
- b. The authority of each institution is accountable directly to God.
- c. The leader of one institution may not impose his authority over subordinates of other institutions without divine authorization.
- d. Husbands have authority over their own wives but no one else's. Parents have authority over their own children but no one else's. Our government has delegated authority enumerated in our Constitution. Powers not enumerated are not granted. For example, the government may not assume authority over the education, religious instruction, training, disciplining, or rearing of a child. These are obligations which are strictly assigned to parents by God.

With authority comes responsibility. God assigns authority to the parents and if they do not accept the responsibility then they will be held accountable. It is very important for parents to understand that their authority carries with it the right to rule.

Young people have an expression today which they attach to their schools: South Rules! Tigers Rule! Eddy Vedder Rules! Jim Morrison Rules! Elle McPherson Rules! My parents rule? Naaah! But regardless of what the child thinks, the parents rule.

The Constitution preserves the U.S. citizens' freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. It protects the right to bear arms, prohibits unlawful searches and seizures, guarantees trials by jury, and assures counsel for one's defense. These are stipulated protections for the People placed upon the government in order to preserve God-given rights and freedoms.

The Constitution restricts the power of government over the People. It has no jurisdiction over parents and their authority over their children. Children are only permitted to freely use their volition when the parents allow it. Otherwise, parents make policy and children must learn to train their volition to comply.

Everyday decisions are made by parents, such as, what to eat, what to wear, where to go, who to see, what to do, when to sleep, what to say, how to say it, when to bathe, when to do chores, what chores to do, how they are to be done. There are no rights and wrongs. Parents decide these things and they have the right to enforce them.

When parents begin training their children at very early ages in these things then they are inculcated by adolescence. Children may argue that they are not being allowed to make their own decisions and thus are being brainwashed.

Correct! Now you understand.

Here's the justification and rationale: Children come into this life with what the Romans called *tabula rasa*, an erased tablet, a blank slate. Here's how the term is defined in:

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "tabula rasa":

The mind in its hypothetical primary blank or empty state before receiving outside impressions. Something existing in its original pristine state.

Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language, s.v. "tabula rasa":

Applied figuratively to the mind on which no impression has been made by experience, as the mind of an infant.

Every child's brain computer is absent any data whatsoever at the moment God selects him or her for human life. Consequently, somebody is going to program the child's brain computer. God has decreed that it should be the parents.

Children should be elated that the ones who have the power to mold their souls are duly appointed by God and have an innate, undying love and devotion for them. Call it brainwashing if you will but it's a dirty job and someone's got to do it. You can thank your God in heaven they're your parents. All others, with the exception of obvious family members, do not have your best interests at heart and only seek to manipulate you for their own best interests.

Children have a tendency to confirm this arrangement. When there is no leadership in the home, children seek those outside the family for guidance. The danger here is that those on the outside are truly involved in brainwashing, such as religious cults, street gangs, political crusaders, and popular culture.

Religious cults create and impose legalistic taboos, street gangs have tyrannical leaders who enforce strict rules, political crusades subscribe to unbending philosophies, and the popular culture promotes its own contorted moral code.

Why is it so odd for parents, whose authority has been delegated to them by God, to create and enforce their own moral standards and codes of conduct, especially when they are based on the laws of divine establishment or Bible doctrine?

In order for a child's soul to become a vessel of honor, it must be made obedient to authority.