

Lesson 7

Outline for Sociology: The Divine Imprint

- I. **Introduction – The God of Order**
 - A. Psalm 19 – "The heavens declare the glory of God ..."
 - B. Job 12 – "But ask the animals, and they will teach you ..."
 - C. Listening to a chicken egg – The exquisite design and intricacy seen in a chicken egg
 - D. Scriptural emphasis of order – Job 25:2, 1 Corinthians 14:33, James 3:16
- II. **Social Order – The Divine Imprint**
 - A. "It is not good" – Genesis 2:18 – Why was it "not good" for man to be alone?
 - B. Triune structure stamped upon Social Order
 - 1. God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - 2. Family – Husband, Wife, Children
 - 3. Church – Christ, Leaders, Flock
 - 4. Our world – Three realms – Physical, Spiritual and Social
 - C. Relationships, Roles, Authority, Submission and Unity within social spheres
- III. **Importance of relationships**
 - A. What happened at the fall? – Relationships were severed and damaged – between God & man, man & man, and man & creation
 - B. Aloneness - "It is not good for man to be alone" – Aloneness is contrary to God's nature; in all eternity, there had never been aloneness before
 - C. God's design of social institutions and social laws
 - D. Intimate Three – God's design for unity, intimacy, oneness - Family, Church, God and Man
- IV. **Family & Church**
 - A. Ephesians 5 – Roles and relationships of members in these spheres – Authority, Submission, Oneness
 - B. Love and Respect between husband and wife
 - C. Honor between children and parents, flock and church leaders
 - D. Divorce – Malachi 2:16 – "I hate divorce ..."
 - E. Lack of respect – 1 Peter 3:7 – " ... so that nothing will hinder your prayers ..."
- V. **Conclusion – Pathologies of the Family**

Leaders Guide Lesson 7 - Sociology

Introduction



During the course of Tour 5 we took a good look at a few of the miraculous ways in which the physical universe declares the glory of its Maker. Now we turn south to consider some of the amazingly detailed reflections of God's nature inherent in the *social* order. According to Dr. Tackett, the evidences of the divine imprint that we see in this realm are even *more* awe-inspiring and *more* indicative of the heart of the Creator than the marvels of DNA replication or the complexities of the blood-clotting system. But for this very reason they also stand closer to the focal point of the *Cosmic Battle*.

Themes

We begin where we left off in Tour 5: with the voice of nature making loud and unmistakable statements about the nature and character of God. "Ask the animals, and they will teach you," says Job, "and the birds of the air, and they will tell you" (Job 12:7, 8). In this case, *order* is one of the overwhelming messages with which creation bombards us. From the atom to the solar system, from photosynthesis to the cleansing tides, from the human body to the design of a chicken egg – everywhere we look we see obvious indications of purposeful design in the things God has made. This, of course, is a serious problem for those who argue that the universe is the product of "random, mindless forces."

The same element of *order* is apparent in the *social systems* God has instituted. Dr. Tackett lays out six that he see in Scripture: family, labor, church, state, community, and the relationship between man and his Maker. But the order we detect in this area is not simply an expression of the Lord's creative design. Instead, it flows out of His very nature. It is a reflection of *who He is*. As Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Triune God embodies *in Himself* the ultimate resolution of the old philosophical problem of "the one and the many." He exemplifies *diversity* within *unity* and the answer to *why* it is "not good for man to be alone" is bound up in the Triune Essence. Relationship, union, communion, intimacy, fellowship, love, and community – these things have existed from all eternity within the economy of the Godhead. Accordingly, they serve as the basis for the smooth and ordered functioning of creation. It is for this very reason, Dr. Tackett argues, that basic social institutions such as marriage, family, and church have come under such heavy attack in our day: just as the world, the flesh, and the devil hate the Creator with a fervent and undying hatred, so they inevitably stand opposed to the social order that bears the imprint of His divine nature.

As this tour unfolds, the principles of order and relationship will be examined specifically as we find them manifested in three of the social systems designed by God: the family, the church, and the union between God and man ("The Intimate Three"). During the course of this discussion, Dr. Tackett will explain how the threefold Trinitarian pattern is reflected in and fundamental to the internal functioning of each of these spheres. Special attention will be given to the subject of the family and some of the pathologies associated with disregard for the divine plan in this crucial area of human life.

Points to Watch for

Statements from video interviewees poignantly highlight the pain, confusion, and deep emotional reactions connected with almost any examination of family life and family-related issues. Similar emotions are almost certain to arise during group discussion. The video segments also present a broad range of popular definitions of "family," a subject that has the potential to stir up equally diversified reactions from group participants. In addition, Dr. Tackett and his students fearlessly broach the often troublesome topic of *authority* and *submission* within the context of marriage, the church, and other aspects of God's social design.

The Truth Project: Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint

Psalm 19:1-4

- ¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
- ² *Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.*
- ³ *There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.*
- ⁴ *Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world."*

Job 12:7-8

- ⁷ *"But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds of the air, and they will tell you;*
- ⁸ *or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish of the sea inform you."*
- If true...are we listening? If you examine nature you find incredible things.

Listening to a Chicken Egg...

Three Main Parts:

- Shell, Yolk, Albumen (egg white)

Shell Is Porous:

- 10,000 pores (O₂ in; CO₂ out)

Four Vessels:

- 2 attach to the yolk for food;
- 2 attach to the outer membrane to breathe

Chick Metabolizes the Yolk:

- Gives off CO₂ & H₂O vapor through the vessels to the shell

19th Day: Chick Needs More Air:

- Uses "egg-tooth" on beak to peck a hole in air sack at end of egg for 6 hrs of air; enough to break hole in shell for more O₂

The Problem of Order

The **chicken egg** poses a **problem**:

-Order-

Random, purposelessness, mindless forces **should produce** a random, purposeless, mindless **cosmos**.

But that is not what we have!

The God of Order

*"Dominion and awe belong to God; he establishes **order** in the heights of heaven."* Job 25:2

"For God is not a God of disorder..." 1 Corinthians 14:33

- God is a God of order
- Disorder is not part of His character

James 3:16

¹⁶ *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find **disorder** and every evil practice.*

God's Systems:

The Atom, cellular system, skeletal system, circulatory system, photosynthesis, coral reefs, metamorphosis, pollination, water cycle, lunar tides, solar system

- To the countless systems in between...all in perfect harmony, perfect order, and in perfect relationships, both within the system itself and in relationship to the systems around it.

God Is A God Of Order

Displayed in great glory through the physical creation...

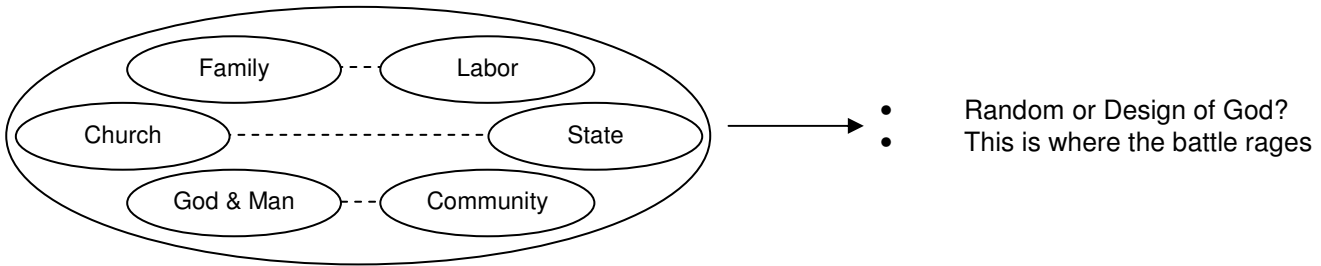
But even more so...

In the order that He has created in the social realm...

An order which is just as phenomenal and beautiful

The Beauty of God's Social Systems

The Real Battleground



Francis Crick - Cited in William A. Dembski, *Science and Design. First Things*

"Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed but rather evolved."

- The world has the same reaction with social systems

Order Baffles The Mind

"I remember well the time when the thought of the eye made me cold all over..." – Charles Darwin

Design of God will result also in man who is not willing to gaze upon His face...will have the same negative reaction to it.

- That is why these social systems are under attack.

When God was in His creative work He made the recurring comment "it is good"

Genesis 2:18 – *It is not good...*

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

- Is this statement qualitative or ethical? Pragmatic or Moral?

Our Source of Truth: Focus on the Nature of God

R.C. Sproul

"When the Christian faces the doctrine of the trinity there is one of the most puzzling problems for the mind to grasp indeed it is a mystery, not a contradiction, but it is a mystery. How can we have a being who is one in essence and three in person? Notice He is not one in essence and three in essence. That would be contradictory but rather our God has unity and diversity within His own being. Now the beauty of that is one of the oldest questions of philosophical investigation is resolved in God Himself, and that is the question of the one in the many. The oldest philosophers looked around the world in which they lived...and they saw trees, and flowers, and animals, and rain, and sunshine, all this diversity...and they said we have all these many things, how do we make sense of them? Is there anything that unifies this diversity? That is where we get the word universe and university, trying to find some transcendent unity that will bring coherence and meaning to all of the wide ranging diversities that we encounter that is found in God Himself, who in His very being is unity and diversity."

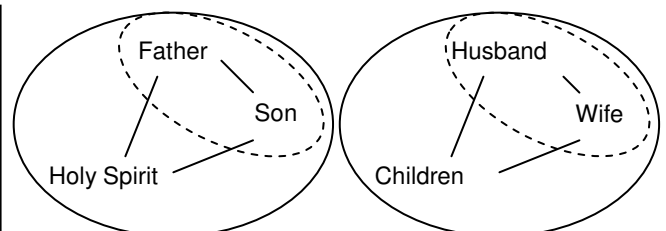
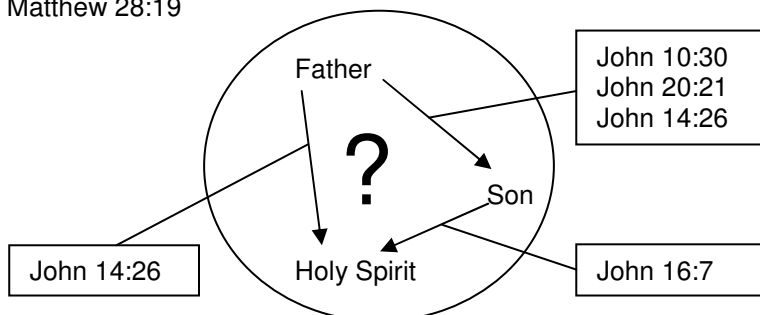
Westminster Confession

"In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost; the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding for the Father and the Son."

The Triune God

Perfect Unity, Relationships, Equality, Roles, Authority & Submission

Matthew 28:19



Father & Son are one... Husband & wife are one flesh (Gen 2:24)

Son is in submission to the Father...Wife is in submission to her husband

Authority - Bible views these as positive

Submission - World views these as negative

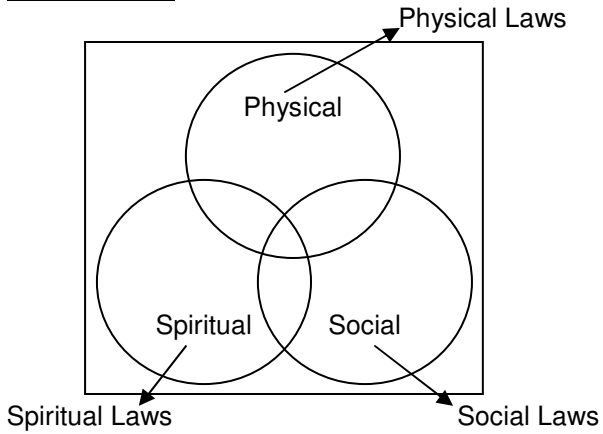
The Divine Mark

The Three Primary Colors

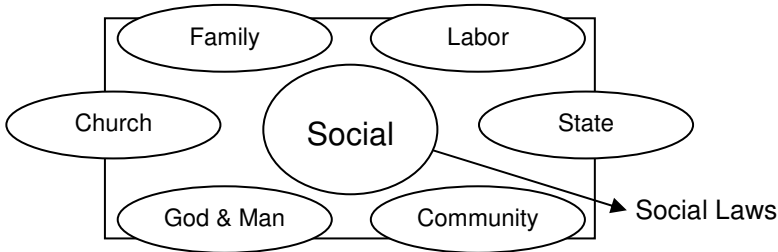
The Atom consists of 3 elements: the proton, neutron, and the electron

Matter consists of 3 forms: Solid, Liquid, and Gas

Three Realms



God's Social Laws & Order



If we go against God's design we go against His nature

What Happened At The Fall?

Relationships severed

- God & Man
- Man to Man
- Man Internally
- Man & Creation

If we go against God's design we go against His nature

The result of the fall has everything to do with relationships

Importance of Relationships

The nature of God exhibits perfect order in relationships

Why Was It Not Good For Man To Not Be Alone?

Genesis 2:18

- This is an ethical statement – being alone contradicts His nature
- God paused to make a divine statement about His nature
- There had never been "aloneness" before

The Divine Mark

One – Aloneness

Two – Relationship & Intimacy

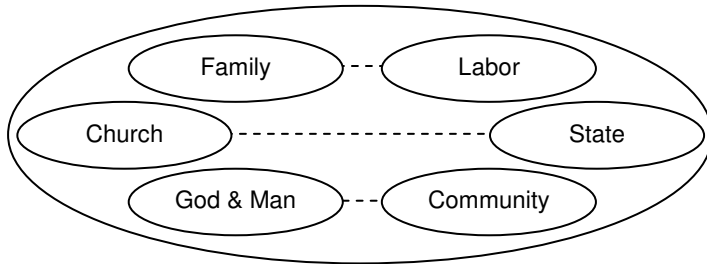
Three – Community & Fellowship

Within the triune nature of God we have everything: intimacy, union, communion, fellowship, love, community.

R.C. Sproul

"We hear a lot in our culture of the doctrine of the concept of natural law and that usually refers to laws that can be gleaned from a study of nature. But there is another way in which that term "natural law" is used that is critical for our understanding of our life and worldview...and that is the natural law of God...That when God gives His law, when God prescribes what the family should look like, what church should look like, what economics should look like, what all of the structures of human life should look like, it is based, not on some abstract law outside of God but reflects upon His own nature...that for us to go against these laws is to ask God to deny Himself...to deny his own nature."

Social Spheres / Social Institutions



Social Order is bound up in the nature of God. He created social institutions with the divine imprint of who He is.

If we can understand how He designed it, if we can understand the social laws He has given to us then we might find ourselves more in harmony with His nature and it might work better

The Relationship between the Church and the Family

Ephesians 5:22-24

"²² Wives, **submit** to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the **head of the church**, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives should **submit** to their husbands in everything."



Remember: *Submit* is not a negative word...

Has man twisted submission & authority and made them ugly?

We need to keep our eye on the design, not the pathology

Ephesians 5:25-30

"²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body."

- This passage makes a direct correlation between both institutions – the Church and the Family

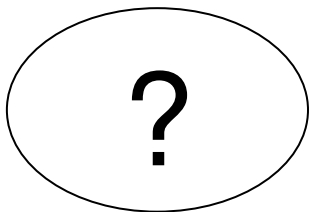
Ephesians 5:31-33 (ESV)

"³¹ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you **love** his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband."

- It is not about personal "worthiness" but about the design of God

The Church

Relationships, Roles, Authority & Submission

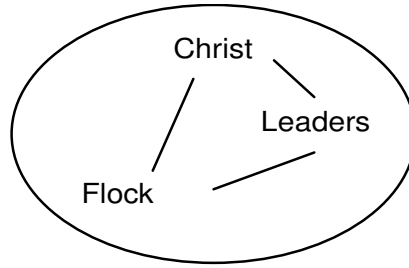


Establishing the Sphere Authority - Titus 1:5-6

"⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and **appoint elders** in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient."

Acts 20: 28

²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the **flock** of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be **shepherds** of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

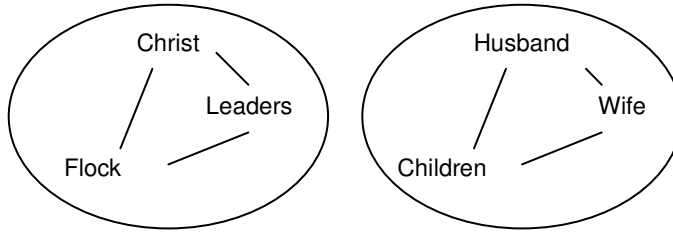


Elders, Pastors, Teachers - Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷Obey your leaders and **submit** to their **authority**. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."

1 Timothy 5:17

¹⁷The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double **honor**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."



Compare 1 Tim 5:17 with Ephesians 6:1-3 (below)

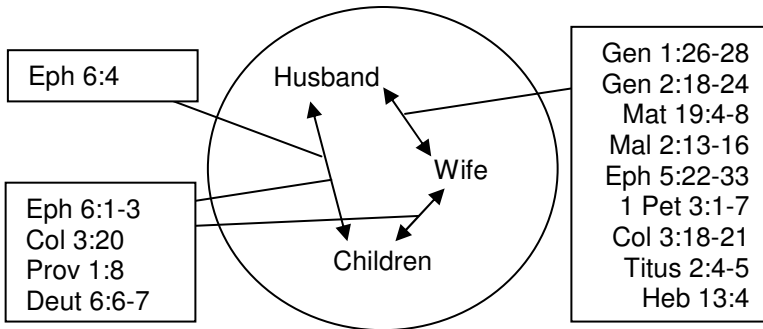
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."

Video – Worlds response to the question: "What is the Family?":

- Pain, emotion, confusion, dysfunction...
- The family model is not ours to manipulate as we please.

The Family

What does it look like? Exodus 20:12, 14, 17



God has given us the structure and the social laws to operate with.

Malachi 2:16

¹⁶"**I hate divorce**," says the LORD God of Israel..."

- This is not, primarily a pragmatic statement. God is speaking in terms of destruction of order that bears His nature.

1 Peter 3:7

⁷Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with **respect** as the weaker partner and as **heirs with you** of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing **will hinder your prayers**."

- If we don't obey His structure, His laws it even hinders our prayers.

Malachi 2:13-17 – Serious Business

¹³ Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴ You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. ¹⁵ Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ **"I hate divorce,"** says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. ¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

- The consequences of violating God's design/order of the family are huge.

1 Peter 3:1-4

¹ Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

Key Terms Lesson 7

Intimate Three: The three social institutions where the Divine Imprint of intimacy and oneness is clearly seen: God and man, family and church. The "oneness" in these three spheres (i.e. the husband and wife become "one") reflect the "oneness" and intimacy within the triune nature of God.

Order: An organized state, with elements arranged properly, neatly, or harmoniously.

Qualitative: Relating to or based on the quality or character of something.

Social Institutions/Social Spheres/Social Systems: Del lists six social systems: Family, Church, God and Man, State, Labor, and Community, with the triune nature of God as the 7 th. Each of these systems are created by God and have distinct roles and responsibilities for the members within the sphere.

Social Order: God's design of social institutions, the function of those social institutions within society, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals within those institutions.

Submission: A willingness to operate under the authority of another. This is a divine attribute of God as evidence by the Son submitting to the Father. Submission is therefore found in God's design of social order, for example, the wife submitting to her husband.

System: A complex body of related elements organized into a complex whole.

The Divine Imprint/The Divine Mark: With respect to God's design of social order, it is the relational aspect of our nature that reflects the relational community within the Godhead. This imprint has been stamped upon individuals and social institutions. Intimacy, union, communion, fellowship, love, and community, are all character traits we share with God.

Trinity: The biblical understanding that God is one in essence, yet exists in three distinct persons: Father Son, and Holy Spirit. Each are fully God, and each performs unique roles. All three are one in essence, not three separate gods.

Visceral: Proceeding from instinct rather than reasoned thinking; dealing with crude or elemental emotions.

Willy-nilly: In a disorganized, unplanned manner; haphazardly

Trinity - Lesson 7 Article

In this tour and in the ones to follow, we are emphasizing the "roles" within the Triune nature of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We have done so to highlight its imprint upon the social order that He has created. In doing so, however, it is possible that someone may wrongly begin to perceive the persons of the Trinity as separate beings. They are not.

One must never lose sight of the reality that God is One—one in essence and being. He exists in three persons, yet each is fully and wholly God. The Son is fully God, not a separate God. The Holy Spirit is fully God, not a separate being. So God is truly one in essence because each person of the Trinity is one in essence with the other.

But, God is not only one in essence, but He is one in unity. The three persons of the Trinity exist in complete oneness. Each person of the Trinity carries out a unique role and performs unique operations, yet they remain one in essence and one in unity. This is the nature of the eternal God.

All of this is mysterious, yes. But not so mysterious that we cannot comprehend its reality. The "mystical union" that exists within the Triune nature of God has also been impressed upon His creation. I do not understand how the flesh and the spirit within me are joined together. I do not understand how my wife and I have become "one flesh". I do not understand how the Spirit of God can dwell within me and somehow be united with me. Paul cries out in reference to these matters and calls it a "profound mystery".

So, when we refer to the Son being in submission to the Father, we are referring to the relationship that exists between the second "person" of the Trinity and the first "person" of the Trinity. When we refer to the Holy Spirit "proceeding" from the Father and the Son, we are referring to the unique operation that the Father and the Son carry out and the implied relationship that exists between the Holy Spirit and the Father and the Son. Yet, we are dealing with one God, one Being, one in essence and unity.

Where is Education? - Lesson 7 Article

Where is Education? Why is it not one of the Social Spheres?

I have often been asked why education is not listed as a unique social system, alongside the family, church, state, etc.

The fact of the matter is, I used to do so.

If you were to pull out some of my old overhead transparencies (does anyone use those anymore?) you would find a circle labeled "education" floating around with the six others that still exist today. My justification was that I could identify a clear authority (the teacher) and a clear role of submission (the student). But as time went on, I began to sense that I had "forced" that sphere into "my" picture—primarily because it had become such a major force within our culture today and I wanted to deal with it.

However, when I honestly looked at the places where I had found it in the Scripture, it was obvious that the majority of the biblical references to education clearly fell under the authority of the parents. So, in reality, education was just one of the roles mom and dad played within the sphere of the family. It wasn't a separate social system at all.

Now, the principle of delegation still applies, so yes, they may delegate that educational responsibility to someone else. But as is the case with every act of delegation, the one who receives that delegation is still ultimately responsible to the one who granted the authority to them and the grantor is still ultimately responsible for how well the one to whom they have granted authority fulfills that responsibility. (I hope that makes sense, because it is vitally important.) The parent is never absolved from the ultimate responsibility of their child's education and the educator is never relieved from ultimately being responsible to the child's parents.

Do you get a sense of how warped this is in our culture today? This is not the picture we see played out in our governmental forms of education. (By the way, I can find no biblical support for the position that the state has responsibility for the education of children.)

However, at some point, the role of educating an individual, as they become adult, transfers to the sphere of labor, where the "owner" should have a deep vested interest in the training and education of his workers and the worker should have a deep vested interest in possessing the skills needed to take his place as a craftsman within this critical social sphere. In old language, the apprentice attaches himself to the master to learn the trade. We will deal with the sphere of labor in Tour 11, but in preface to that tour, it should be noted that the owner, manager, or boss, should not take lightly the responsibility he has to make sure his employees have the proper education and training needed to do their work well. Additionally, the young man or woman, who is ready to enter the world of creative work, should diligently pursue the education and training necessary to prepare themselves to be an excellent craftsman.

This is a radical thought in a world that has turned education over to the state.

Appropriately, some may find that their "craft" is indeed a "business" whose "work" is to educate and train customers who come to them and pay money for their educational and training services. Their responsibility is to their customers, to provide a good education in exchange for the payment they receive.

What a novel idea!