

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

THE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

1. What are the two most profound distinctions in the Bible? Illustrate these.
 - Creator-creature distinction
 - Man-nature distinction

2. What is a divine institution?
 - A divine institution is an absolute structure designed as a necessity because of the nature of man
 - If it is feigned or redefined there are consequences to pay down the line

3. What is a social convention?
 - A social convention is a relative or arbitrary structure that is agreed upon by a society
 - A social convention can be modified or changed with some disturbance or uncomfortableness but no serious consequences.

4. What is Divine Institution #1 (DI#1)? What is the first portrait we see of God in Scripture (Gen 1)? What Scriptures in Genesis are vital here? What do we mean by “Responsible”? Who is the first laborer? What are the three stages implied in God’s actions on each of the days of creation? What area of life falls out of this institution? What new vocabulary word comes into the discussion here that is deeply important to our salvation? Is value intrinsic or imputed?
 - Responsible Dominion or Labor. Gen 1; 1:26-28; 2:15, 18; 3:17. By “responsible” we mean that the labor is evaluated or judged. God is the first laborer. He has a plan or blueprint in mind, He labors or creates, He evaluates His labor. Economics falls out of this, the issue of who decides prices. Value is imputed by responsible creatures, God is the ultimate evaluator at the judgment.

5. What is Divine Institution #2 (DI#2)? What Scriptures in Genesis are vital here? Define marriage? Besides the obvious teaching of Scripture what other evidence supports this definition? What did the Massachusetts's Supreme Judicial Court decide in 2004 regarding the definition of marriage? How is DI#2 related to DI#1? What Scriptures make this connection?
- Marriage. Gen 1:28; 2:15, 18, 21-24. Marriage is the covenantal union of one man and one woman before God. MSJC decided that marriage was "a voluntary union between two persons". Not only the physical differences of male and female but the emotional and mental make-up. DI#1 forms the context in which DI#2 is defined and functions. Man's primary role is to "labor, to rule, t subdue" and man is given a "helper" to complete this function (Gen 1:28; 2:15,18).
6. What is Divine Institution #3 (DI#3)? What passages are involved? Why, or what is the context in which it is given? What is a family? What is the basic unit of society? What is the biblical position on inheritance taxes vs the American position? How are Trinitarian titles related to family? The family is many "firsts". Name a few. Why is there a problem of overpopulation in certain places in the world? What happens if you fool with these three DI's?
- Family. Gen 1:28. Marriage is first of all defined in terms of its productivity, not just making babies but also developing culture, a whole culture comes out of marriage. A family is a father, mother and child(ren). A family is the basic unit of society. The Bible does not support inheritance taxes because the family is the basic unit of possession, not the individual. Karl Marx instituted inheritance taxes to destroy family. God is Father and Son and that's why we have these titles in the family. The family is the first school, first church, first social structure, etc...There are overpopulation problems because of failure to subdue properly. The society will crumble.

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