



**By Design**  
**Government In The Family**

Before the fall of man, human government was not necessary. Before the fall, the first man and the first woman were created to be co-rulers under God.

**Genesis 1:26**

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

**NKJV**

Created in the image of God, living in a state of human perfection, and living in perfect unity with God and with one another, there was not a need for human government or for one of them to rule over the other.

It never crossed Eve's mind to ask Adam permission to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That would be submission and submission was not necessary before the fall of man.

After the fall, human government was necessary, and the first institution God addressed was the family. In Genesis 3, God chose the man to be the ruler of the family rather than the woman.

**Genesis 3:16**

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

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Fast forward thousands of years after the church was formed by God, Paul affirmed the governing authority of the man in the family in Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3 and Peter affirmed this in 1 Peter 3.

**Ephesians 5:22-24**

22 Wives submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

**NKJV**

**Colossians 3:18**

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

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1 Peter 3:1-6

3 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel —

4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

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There is an attack on God's design for the government of the family that is unlike any attack that I have ever seen in my lifetime.

The attack has reached such a magnitude that it has become impossible to teach what the bible says about government of the family without being called a bigot, sexist, misogynist, woman-hater, and ignorant.

God's design for the government of the family is now considered to be an evil ideal that is socially unjust!

Many in the church have joined the chorus of voices that have joined the attack on God's design for the government of the family.

Adding fuel to the attacks on God's design for the government of the family has been the unprecedented well publicized failures of men in our nation to behave like Godly men.

- **Sexual harassment**

81% of women claim to have experienced some form of sexual harassment during their life time.

- **Sexual assault**

51% of women say they have been touched or groped in an unwelcome way.

- **Abuse of authority**

Since President Clinton's well publicized cover up about an inappropriate relationship with an intern, there has been a steady stream of women that have been willing to come forward

and accuse men in power of using their position of power to their advantage to satisfy their desires.

There have been sexual assault cover ups by men in every realm of authority.

- **Misogyny**

Misogyny is the new buzz word being used for a dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women; especially women that are successful or women in authority. Recently one of the most prominent women public speakers in Southern Baptist circles accused prominent leaders of misogyny.

Social media is all over this and many others are joining in the chorus of charges of misogyny.

To teach God's design for the government of the family in this social environment is extending an invitation to be publicly scorned.

But if the church does not teach God's design for the government of the family, we are compromising something that is essential to the foundation of Christianity. If we do not believe this essential, we might as well dismiss and disband.

This essential is found in scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

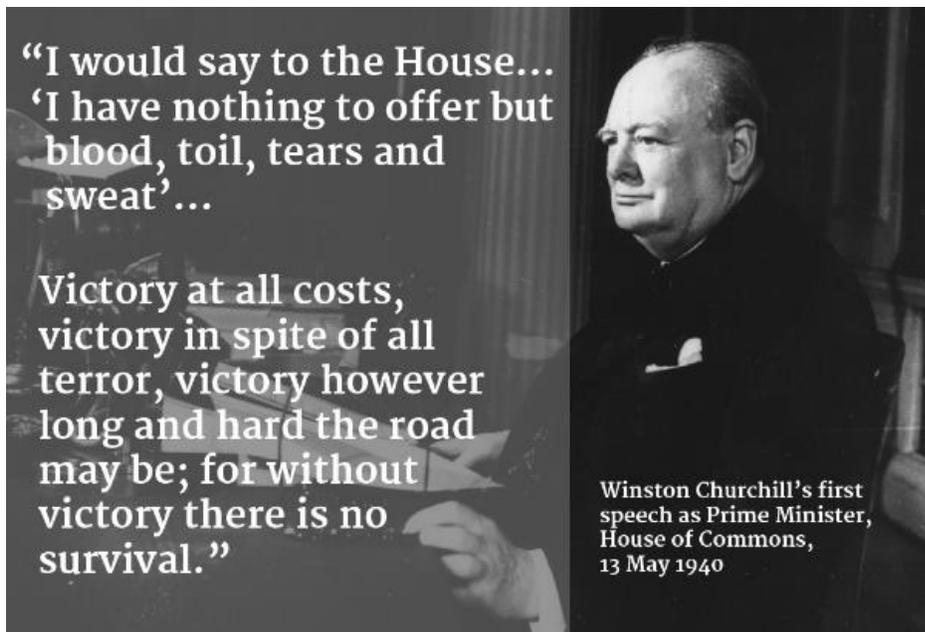
21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

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The scripture is God's inspired Word and it is the final authority on what the church believes and practices!

The attack on God's design for the government of the family is another attack on the inspiration and the authority of the bible as God's Word.

When Winston Churchill became prime minister of Great Britain during WWII, he showed this resolve in his opening address to the House of Commons.



As Christians, we must have that same resolve and courage in defending God’s Word from those who attack its inspiration.

The abuse of authority by men in our society has not changed God’s design for the government of the family.

Men are appointed by God to govern the family and a man’s wife and his children are commanded to respect his authority and subject themselves to him.

People appointed by God to govern fail. They make mistakes. They sin.

God commands Christians to give honor and respect to those who govern despite their failures.

[Romans 13:1-7](#)

[13 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.](#)

[2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.](#)

[3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.](#)

[4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.](#)

[5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.](#)

[6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.](#)

[7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.](#)

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1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men —

16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

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God commands Christians to speak up for those who are being treated unjustly but we should always speak with honor and respect.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

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Colossians 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

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God commands Christians to trust in His sovereignty when those in authority are unjust to us.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. NKJV

The failures of men in authority and the failure of people to honor those who government is a testament to another truth in scripture called human depravity.

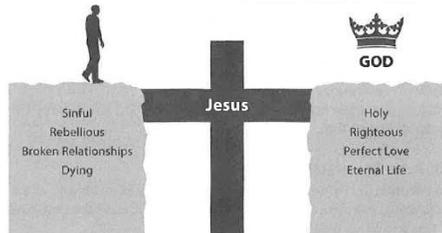
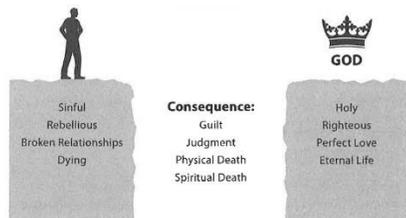
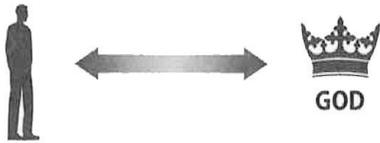
Depravity means moral corruption; wickedness; corruption; perversion; degeneracy; debauchery; indecency.

Paul describes human depravity in Romans 3:10-18

Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;  
 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.  
 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."  
 13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";  
 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."  
 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;  
 17 And the way of peace they have not known."  
 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."  
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There is only one solution for human depravity.



How do you walk across that bridge?

You come to Jesus as a pauper asking Him to save you from your sin. You believe His promises that He will.

Men fail in leadership as husbands and women fail in submission as wives. Men fail as fathers and women fail as mothers. You don't solve the problem of women failing as mothers by replacing them with men. You don't solve the problem of men failing as leaders by replacing them with women.

You solve the problem of sin and human depravity by faith in Jesus. It is amazing what God can do with a husband and his wife when they submit themselves to Jesus Christ and embrace God's design for government in the family. That marriage becomes a picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His church.

Will you receive Jesus?

Church, will you submit yourself to God's design for government in the family?