

Truth 1 | God's Social Networks

Our basic social institutions, including the family and the church, did not just evolve but were created by God.

1. How well can you back up this statement with Scripture? (Hint: See "Check It Out" on p. 79.) Or with other evidence?

2. How would your life be different if there were no social order—no family to belong to, no churches, no governmental or community structures—but just you, on your own? Imagine and describe a typical day or week.

Truth 2 | The Stamp of God

The family as God designed it reflects His own nature. The church does so as well.

1. In what ways do marriage and family mirror the character of God? Describe what you see happening whenever people try to change the design He intended.

2. What should it mean in practical terms that Christ is head of His body, the church?

Truth 3 | Under Attack

The world's hostility toward God lies behind its war against the family and other institutions He created.

1. Do you believe the family is under attack? If so, in what ways? What can happen when one social institution tries to supersede another rather than stay within divinely ordered bounds? Give some examples.

2. What societal problems can be traced back to the breakdown of God's social order? Which of these problems most concern you, and what can we do about them?

Wrap-Up

We've seen that the social order is not simply an expression of the Lord's creative design, but that it also flows out of His very being. It is a reflection of who He is—diversity within unity. Further, His triune nature explains why it is “not good for man to be alone.”

Do you know anyone who is alone? Maybe alone even when part of a church? If so, what is the Lord calling you to do about it? The world's crusade against God's social order should be countered by the daily actions of every believer.