

- (10) This authority enables these men to function on the king's behalf "for the punishment of evildoers." The word "punishment" is the accusative of purpose of the noun **ἐκδίκησις (ekdikēsis)**: "for the purpose of executing justice."
- (11) This is required under the principles of the laws of divine establishment for the preservation of freedom, peace, and tranquility in the nation.
- (12) Those to be apprehended are referred to as "evildoers," or **κακοποιός (kakopoiós)**, "one who is injurious to the community."
- (13) On the other hand, those said to be "among those who do right" are to be "praised." The idea of "doing the right thing" is expressed by the verb **ἀγαθοποιέω (agathopoiéō)**.
- (14) This is a compound which is made up of **ἀγαθός (agathós)**: "the good" plus **ποιέω (poiéō)**: "to do." This refers to the production of divine good.
- (15) Such individuals are to receive **ἔπαινος (épainos)**: "praise" or commendation.
- (16) Two things determine what is meant by verses 13 and 14. Within the devil's world, a believer's basic modus operandi is to obey human laws.
- (17) For the gospel of salvation and the communication and execution of the Word of God to be freely expressed, the Christian must orient to the Lord's guidance in:

Matthew 22:21 - "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." [Also see Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25, cf. Romans 13:7.]

- (18) When the government of a Client Nation suppresses these imperatives placed upon believers by divine mandate, then every effort must be made to perform them within the structure of human laws.

- (19) The guidelines on the potential conflict between human laws and divine laws are: (1) the believer must be flexible with regard to issues that are not in conflict with biblical mandates, but (2) inflexible with regard to those in conflict with them.
- (20) If the latter becomes the case, then he must be willing to suffer the consequences with a stiff upper lip and quiet resolution.

1 Peter 2:13 - Subjugate yourselves to very human ordinance [respect the authority structure of the client nation's laws of divine establishment] because of the Lord's sake [accusative of cause of the preposition *διὰ* (*diá*): "because of" τόν κύριος (*tón kúrios*): "the Lord"³], whether to the king as supreme authority,

v. 14 - or unto governors [those in jurisdictional positions of authority] for the punishment of those practicing evil and to honor those who do the right thing. (EXT)

1 Peter 2:15 - For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

v. 16 - Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

v. 17 - Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. (NASB)

- (1) The phrase, "For such is the will of God" encompasses all the principles mentioned in the context of this paragraph.
- (2) PRINCIPLE: To do the will of God, the believer must know the will of God. This inventory of ideas is only acquired through consistent Bible study.

³ The noun "sake" is not found in the New Testament but in English Bibles the word is inserted as part of a prepositional phrase. The preposition "for" in this verse is the accusative of cause plus the noun *Kúrios*: "Lord." It is best translated "because of the Lord's sake." The word "sake" in English means: "motive, purpose, end, cause, advantage, behalf, benefit, or account" (*Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary: Unabridged*, 2d ed., s.v. "sake").

- (3) Believers are not in this game if they do not know rules of the game. Christianity, in its present state in Client Nation America, is drifting significantly toward fulfillment of examples provided by the Jews when involved in their several encounters with the five cycles of discipline.
- (4) Misunderstanding love and consequently the misapplication of love have diminished our ability as a free people to distinguish good from evil.
- (5) True love must be associated with the essence of God since Scripture is clear about the fact that “God is love” (1 John 4:8; 16).
- (6) His love is a divine attribute which is available to believers who acquire the knowledge of how the love of God is appropriated to others.
- (7) Love for others must be associated with divine integrity. Those who violate divine standards are in opposition to the love of God which is expressed by His integrity.
- (8) Therefore, unconditional love must be administered with respect for divine integrity. Without personal authority over the overwhelming mass of peoples on this earth, believers must deal with the benighted under the principle of “live and let live.”
- (9) Only through the influence of Bible doctrine in the souls of believers and their application of its principles to the devil’s world can historical impact occur.
- (10) Cosmic individuals and cosmic cultures are byproducts of *cosmos diabolicus*. These cannot be changed in a generation.
- (11) Those individuals and those cultures that reject the love of God are not to be given any advantage from believers beyond support and encouragement of pastors, evangelists, and missionaries.

- (12) Over the years, many in our congregation have exposed others to resources for serious Bible study from Grace Doctrine Church and Joe Griffin Media Ministries.
- (13) The general response has been pretty much nil with precious exceptions from time to time. But the majority turns away from doctrine and submits to the lust for emotional aggrandizement.
- (14) PRINCIPLE: Worship of God has nothing to do with the opinions and emotions of those who assemble. Worship has to do strictly with the willingness to learn the Word of God and applying it to one's daily life.
- (15) Absent this priority, the believer is going to gravitate to human instincts which will result in applications that are exclusively in opposition to the will of God and the love of God.
- (16) You may be gut-galled at this idea, but our expression of personal love for God requires that we submit to duly appointed representatives of human authority.
- (17) The upside is that by doing the right thing, the submissive believer will "silence the ignorance of foolish men."
- (18) This is done by submission to the "will of God," "will" being the noun **θέλημα (thélēma)**: "that which pleases God results in His gracious disposition."
- (19) To please God the believer must coordinate with divine integrity which is expressed by application of His Word.
- (20) Actually, the will of God may be expressed in three ways:
 - a. The directive will is accomplished by the believer who is in fellowship and advancing in his spiritual growth.

- b. The permissive will relates to the believer out of fellowship and functioning in one or more cosmic functions.
 - c. The overruling will refers to the wall of fire for all believers, but it so doing the believer enters into categories of suffering.
- (21) Divine guidance is functional for believers under the directive will of God. There is the short-term will: What does God want me to do today? The long-term will would ask: What does God want me to do with my life?
- (22) It is in the status of the directive will of God that the term “by doing right” is accomplished and is found in the compound present active participle of the verb **ἀγαθοποιέω (agathopoieō)**.
- (23) The adjective **ἀγαθός (agathós)**, “good of intrinsic value,” refers to the rectitude and probity of divine integrity.
- (24) The verb **ποιέω (poieō)**, “to do, make, form, produce, bring about, or cause” refers to action either as completed or continued.”
- (25) Together, the word that is formed means “to do good of intrinsic value” or “produce divine good” to others.
- (26) In context, it has to do with behaving yourself inside the bubble so you may “silence the ignorance of foolish men.”
- (27) Our plate is full! In the cultural environment in which we are tasked to “do good,” the objective of producing the kind of wisdom that “silences” the benighted is daunting.
- (28) Nevertheless, our Constitution and Bill of Rights provide the support we need to continue to our quest for invisible historical impact on our generation.

- (29) Quoting from the back cover of *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church*, we read:

The foundation of all cultures is a central belief system that unites disparate individuals into a harmonious commonwealth. Although the United States is not a Christian nation, it was founded primarily by Christians who incorporated laws of divine establishment into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. For Christians, the most sacred right contained in the First Amendment is that of free exercise. Ancillary to it are those freedoms that enable a person to grow in grace so he can become a good soldier for Jesus Christ. Freedom of movement facilitates assembly. Freedom of assembly permits church attendance. Freedom of speech allows public exposition of Scripture. Freedom of the press insures the publication and distribution of the Bible and its teachings. Recognizing the importance of a free people having access to the foundational documents of the Republic, these State Papers are a part of this publication.⁴

- (30) Taking advantage of these freedoms, the believer may prepare his soul to insert divine viewpoint into the deranged cacophony of the devil's world.
- (31) The word "silence" is the present active infinitive of the verb **φιμόω (phimōō)**: "to produce the action of muzzling the mouth of a beast." Used figuratively, "to silence the mouth."
- (32) Whose mouth is to be hushed comes next and is described as belonging to **ἀγνοσία (agnōsia)**. By placing an alpha-privative prefix to the noun **γνώσις (gnōsis)** the word "knowledge" becomes its antonym, "ignorance."
- (33) This is followed by the words **ἄφρων (áphrōn)**: "foolish," plus **ἄνθρωπος (anthrōpos)**: "men" – stupid, vacuous, unintelligent, unwise, ill-advised, "daft doofi."

1 Peter 2:15 - This is the directive will and desire of God, that by doing good of intrinsic value you may muzzle the ignorance of ill-advised men. (EXT)

(End CR14-59. See CR14-60 for continuation of study at p. 591.)

⁴ *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), back cover. To acquire a copy, write to Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 1821 S River Rd, St. Charles, MO 63303. Include mailing address and number of copies desired.