



Lesson Guide

Lesson 7 - Sociology: The Divine Imprint

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.

Discussion Questions

- 1) **What did you see on this tour? Were any of these points of particular interest to you? Why?**
- 2) **What point was Dr. Tackett making with the chicken egg?**
- 3) **What did Dr. Tackett call the “Divine Pause”? Why?**
- 4) **In Genesis 2:18, God declares that “it is *not good* for man to be alone.” What does Dr. Tackett mean when he says that this is an *ethical* rather than a *qualitative* statement? How does this assertion become important to our entire discussion of the social order?**
- 5) **What do theologians and philosophers mean when they talk about the “Natural Law?”**
- 6) **Dr. Tackett claims to see “threes” wherever he looks in creation or in the human social order. How is this “Trinitarian” pattern evident in the structure and relationships of family, church, and the union between God and man?**
- 7) **In Malachi 2:16, God says that He “hates divorce.” Why does Dr. Tackett maintain that this is *not simply a practical or pragmatic* statement? What light does the principle contained in this verse cast on *all* of the pathologies associated with the family? With human life as a whole?**

Note to the hosts and guests: Normally Dr. Tackett includes in each of the tours on social order a lengthy discussion on the pathologies and issues within each social system. Because we had to edit each DVD down to less than one hour, these discussions, unfortunately, were not captured for you. A short discussion of each will be provided

on the website. However, the next question will list a few of those issues and pathologies for this first sphere, the family. Pick one and discuss it. This is usually the fun and lively part of the tour! Remember to practice being winsome! As you discuss an issue, try to focus on God's design, the personal or cultural counter to that design, and the resulting consequences.

- 8) Discuss some practical examples of the intensity of the *Cosmic Battle* as it is being played out in the realm of the social order in our day. How are people in contemporary society manifesting their unwillingness to acknowledge the obvious and look upon the face of God in this area? What should our response be to this situation?



Tour Guide Notes: Trinity

Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint

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.



**Tour Guide Notes: Where is Education?
Why is it not one of the Social Spheres?
Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint**

I have often been asked why education is not listed as a unique social system, along side 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 any one 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!

SOCIOLGY

the divine Imprint

1

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

Psalm 19:1-4

2

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you."

Job 12:7-8

3

talked to a **chicken** lately?

4

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

5

listening to a **Chicken Egg**...

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
hole in air sack at end of egg for 6
hrs of air; enough to break hole
in shell for more O2

6

THE PROBLEM OF ORDER

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

- Order -

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

But that is not what we have!

7

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

8

DISORDER IS A VICE

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

James 3:16



9

**COUNTLESS & INCREDIBLE
SYSTEMS OF ORDER**

Water cycle to DNA

**Photosynthesis to
Cleansing Tides**

Chicken Egg to Blood Clotting

10

GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

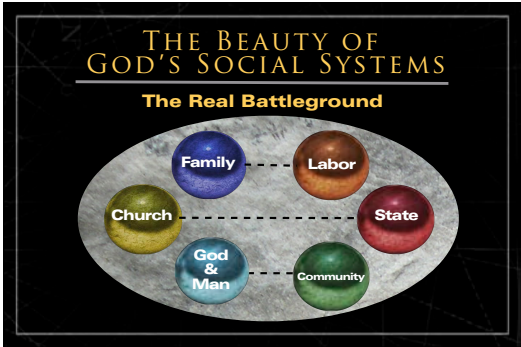
Displayed in great glory through the physical creation...

But even more so...

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

An order which is just as phenomenal and beautiful

11



12

ORDER BAFFLES THE BLIND

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

Francis Crick
cited in William Dembski, *First Things*

13

Quoted in Dembski, William. "Science and Design." *First Things*, no. 86. October 1988, p. 21-27

Reprinted online at: <http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft9810/dembski.html>

ORDER BAFFLES THE BLIND

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

Charles Darwin

14

Darwin, Charles (1897) and Darwin, Francis, ed. *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin, Part Two*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger, 2004.

CREATION

God's recurring comment...

15

GENESIS 2:18
Qualitative or Ethical?
Pragmatic or Moral?

16

OUR SOURCE OF TRUTH
Focus on the
Nature of God

17

WESTMINSTER CONFSSION

"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 from the Father and the Son."

1646

18

Westminster Confession of Faith, The (1646).

THE TRIUNE GOD
Perfect Unity, Relationships, Equality,
Roles, Authority & Submission

Matthew 28:19

Father

Son

Holy Spirit

John 10:30
John 20:21
John 14:26

John 14:26

John 16:7

19

THE DIVINE MARK

Solid, Liquid, Gas

20

THREE REALMS

Physical Laws

Physical

Spiritual Social

Spiritual Laws Social Laws

21

GOD'S SOCIAL LAWS & ORDER

Social Laws

22

it's all about
Relationships

23

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FALL?

relationships severed

God & Man

Man to Man

Man Internally

Man & Creation

24

importance of
Relationships

25

Qualitative or Ethical?
Pragmatic or Moral?

Why was it not good for man to be alone?

26

THE DIVINE MARK

- One**
Aloneness
- Two**
Relationship & Intimacy
- Three**
Community & Fellowship

27

**SOCIAL SPHERES/
SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Family, Labor, Church, State, God & Man, Community

28

THE INTIMATE THREE

Trinity, Family, Church, God & Man

29

THE INTIMATE THREE

Trinity, Family

**Authority
Submission
Oneness
Unity**

30

FAMILY & CHURCH

Wives, **submit** to your husbands as to the Lord.

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.

Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives should **submit** to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:22-24

31

FAMILY & CHURCH

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

32

FAMILY & CHURCH

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

for we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:28-30

33

FAMILY & CHURCH

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31-32 (ESV)

34

FAMILY & CHURCH

However, let each one of you **love** his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.

Ephesians 5:33 (ESV)

35

THE CHURCH
Relationships, Roles,
Authority & Submission



36

ESTABLISHING THE SPHERE AUTHORITY

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. 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.


Titus 1:5-6

37

ESTABLISHING THE SPHERE AUTHORITY

Keep 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.

Acts 20:28




38

ELDERS, PASTORS, TEACHERS

Obey 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.

Hebrews 13:17




39

ELDERS, PASTORS, TEACHERS

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

1 Timothy 5:17



40

FAMILY SPHERE
God's Design & Purpose
The Cultural Attack

41

THE FAMILY
what does it look like?
Exodus 20:12, 14, 17

Husband
Wife
Children

Eph 6:4

Eph 6:1-3
Col 3:20
Prov 1:8
Deut 6:6-7

Gen 1:26-28
Gen 2:18-24
Mat 19:4-8
Mal 2:13-16
Eph 5:22-33
1 Pet 3:1-7
Col 3:18-21
Titus 2:4-5
Heb 13:4

42

THE FAMILY:
SERIOUS BUSINESS

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

Malachi 2:16

43

THE FAMILY:
SERIOUS BUSINESS

Husbands, 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.

1 Peter 3:7

44

SERIOUS BUSINESS

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.

Malachi 2:13-17

45

SERIOUS BUSINESS

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. Has not the LORD made them one?

Malachi 2:13-17

46

SERIOUS BUSINESS

In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.

Malachi 2:13-17

47

SERIOUS BUSINESS

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. "**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.

Malachi 2:13-17

48

SERIOUS BUSINESS

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?"

Malachi 2:13-17

49

SOCIOLOGY

the divine Imprint

50



Outline

Lesson 7 – 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
- V. Conclusion – Pathologies of the Family
- A. Divorce – Malachi 2:16 – "I hate divorce ... "
 - B. Lack of respect – 1 Peter 3:7 – " ... so that nothing will hinder your prayers ... "



Key Terms

Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint

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 7th. 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 evidenced 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



Scripture References
Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint

Psa 18:1-4

James 3:16

John 20:21

Titus 1:5-6

Ex 20:12,14,17

Mal 2:13-17

Heb 13:4

Deut 6:6-7

Job 12:7-8

Gen 2:18

John 14:26

Acts 20:28

Gen 1:26-28

1 Pet 3:1-7

Eph 6:4

Job 25:2

Matt 28:19

John 16:7

Heb 13:17

Gen 2:18-24

Col 3:18-21

Eph 6:1-3

1 Cor 14:33

John 10:30

Eph 5:22-33

1 Tim 5:17

Matt 19:4-8

Titus 2:4-5

Prov 1:8



Recommended Reading

Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint

Please note that not everything in these suggested resources should be considered endorsed by Focus on the Family. Nevertheless, Dr. Tackett has found this material helpful. Scripture should be your first and primary resource.

- Dobson, James. 2004. *Marriage under Fire*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, Inc.
- Gairdner, William D. 1992. *The War Against the Family*. Toronto, Canada: Stoddart Publishing.
- Skillen, J. W. and R. M. McCarthy (eds). 1991. *Political Order and the Plural Structure of Society*. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press.