

The Divine Institutions

The term “divine institution” has been used by Christians to speak of those absolute social structures established by God and embedded within the social structure of the human race. Thus these are for the entire human race—believers and unbelievers alike. These are unbreakable realities.

Modern paganism views them as by-products of man’s psycho-social evolution, “cultural conventions.”

The Divine Institutions

1. Individual Responsibility

PRE-FALL

2. Marriage

3. Family

**Designed to promote
productivity and advance
civilization**

4. Government, judicial

5. Nations

POST-FALL

Designed to restrain evil

Genesis

Gen. 9:5, "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

Gen. 9:6, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man."

Rom. 13:1, “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.

Rom. 13:2, “Therefore whoever **resists** the **authority** **resists** the ordinance of God, and those who **resist** will bring judgment on themselves.

Rom. 13:3, “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.

Rom. 13:4, “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.”

Rom. 13:5, “Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake.

Rom. 13:6, “For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing.

Rom. 13:7, “Render therefore to all their due:

**taxes to whom taxes are due,
customs to whom customs,
fear to whom fear,
honor to whom honor.”**

Romans 12

12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Romans 13

13:1, "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."

The words “evil” (κακός, kakos) and “good” (ἀγαθός, agathos) are found in both Rom. 12:17, 21, and 13:3–4.

“Wrath” (ὀργή, orgē) is mentioned in 12:19 and 13:4, 5.

The concept of vengeance appears in 12:19 and 13:4.

ἐκδίκησις (*ekdikēsis*)

נָקָמָה (*nāqam*)

Deuteronomy

32:35, "Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them."

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ὑποτάσσω *hypot:ssō*

3 S; Pres Pass Imper

The present imperative indicates a standard characteristic of the spiritual life.

1 Pet. 2:13, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

1 Pet. 2:14, “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.

1 Pet. 2:15, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

1 Pet. 2:16, “as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

1 Pet. 2:17, “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”