

# DIVINE GOVERNMENT

## Part 3

### I. INTRODUCTION TO DIVINE GOVERNMENT

- A. Theocracy - rule of God
- B. Theocracy vs. Democracy
  - 1. Democracy - will of the people; majority; consensus
- C. Theocracy vs. Dictatorship
  - 1. One of first signs of dictatorship - man stands alone
  - 2. Dictator not always wrong motives
- D. Problems when leadership swallows up body ministry
  - 1. Lack of initiative
  - 2. Attracts weak over-dependent
  - 3. Lack of joy
  - 4. Antagonism and pent-up frustrations
  - 5. Fear
  - 6. Frustration because of limited expression and freedom
  - 7. Fictitious dis-unity
- E. The sin of the Nicolaitanes - Rev. 2:6
  - 1. Nico - to conquer
  - 2. Loas - the people or the laity
  - 3. This puts the clergy on a high and exalted level and demands people come to God through them. Clergy becomes ruling class
  - 4. Denies the people direct access to God
    - a. Danger of prophecy, etc.
    - b. Every believer should seek God for selves
    - c. Go to leaders when necessary
  - 5. Priestly assumption; lording over flock
  - 6. One of weaknesses of modern pastor is it fails to produce strong lay ministry
    - a. Over-dependent on one man
    - b. Failure in ministry result of depriving our members of their privilege of engaging fully in work of ministry

### II. PLURALITY IN GOVERNMENT - THEOCRACY NOT UNDER ONE MAN

- A. To rule in house of God must qualify as elder - I Tim. 3
- B. Recurring theme of plural eldership
  - 1. Acts 1:14 - Peter standing up with the eleven
  - 2. Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine
  - 3. Acts 4:35 - And laid them down at the apostles' feet
  - 4. Acts 15:2 - The apostles and elders
  - 5. Acts 15:4 - The apostles and elders
  - 6. Acts 15:6 - The apostles and elders came together

7. Acts 15:22 -It pleased the elders and brethren
  8. Acts 15:23 - Apostles and elders and brethren
  9. Acts 16:4 - The apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem
  10. Acts 21:18 - Paul went in with us into James; and all the elders were present.
- C. Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19) - Paul ministered with Aquilla and Priscilla
1. Acts 20:17 - "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church."
  2. I Tim. 5:17 - "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor."
- D. Cilician Church - Acts 14:23 - *"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord on whom they had believed."*
- E. Cretan Churches - Titus 1:4-5 - *"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."*
- F. Judean Churches - Acts 11:29-30 - *"Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabus and Saul."*
- G. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia
1. I Peter 5:1-3 - *"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder..."*
- H. James 5:14 - *"Is any sick among you?...call for elders..."*
- I. Plurality, but not necessarily equality
- J. Under authority by submission instead of ecclesiastical or legislative authority

### III. FOUNDATION OF SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENT

- A. Must be qualified elders
1. Five-fold ministry
  2. Established in present truth - II Pet. 1:12
  3. Must be understood and taught the Spirit leads and governs the church through human beings.
- B. Leadership sets House in Order and Establishes Direction
1. Walk in Spirit - submit to one another
  2. Do not lord over flock
    - a. Heart of theocracy recognition scripture as final authority
    - b. People submit because they recognize God's divine call over their life and proven
  3. Hearty response to leadership
    - a. I Samuel 14:6-7
    - b. Ezra 10:4-5
- C. Must be unity and fellowship
1. Only atmosphere god can bless in
  2. Unity essential for Body Ministry

- D. Strong corporate prayer and worship
- E. Must be active gifts and ministries among the people

#### IV. PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY CHURCH GOVERNMENT

- A. Formation of governing body
  - 1. Develop leadership from among the people
  - 2. Emphasize teaching, spiritual feeding, prayer, and worship--  
meeting the needs of the people
  - 3. Emphasize fellowship among flock
  - 4. Develop body ministry to free pastor
- B. Balance of ministry
- C. Delegating responsibilities and authority