**God and Order**

**Introduction**

1. The world likes to make assumptions about God instead of investigating what He has revealed concerning Himself.
	1. He is not the same as He was in the Old Testament.
	2. His concept of grace is relaxed, and not stringent.
	3. Etc.
2. This view of God has no rhyme or reason but is simply an amalgamation of human estimations of God. (It makes God have the Dissociative Identity Disorder – multiple personalities.)
3. A careful consideration of the information God has given about Himself show that God is a God of order.
	1. **1 Corinthians 14:33** – not the author of confusion. (Confusion – instability, i.e. disorder)
	2. **1 Corinthians 14:40** – commands that things be done decently and in order.
4. Our lives should reflect this truth about God and order.
5. The Orderliness of God
6. The Divine Nature
	1. The plurality of God – **Genesis 1:1, 26**
		1. *'ĕlôhı̂ym* – plural – **(v. 26)** – let us.
		2. Shared image and likeness.
	2. **Genesis 1:1-3** – God (Father), Spirit, “said” (Word **– John 1:1**):
		1. These have an orderliness in which they dwell, a unity
		2. **John 7:16-18** – Jesus affirming that what He taught was His Father’s will.
		3. Same with the HS – **John 16:12-15** – Father’s will = Jesus’ will = HS’ will.
	3. They are not divided in any way else they would fail – **Matthew 12:25** – division brings failure (concerning the claim that Jesus’ casted out a demon by Satan’s power).
7. The Creation
	1. **Psalm 19:1** – handiwork suggests design.
		1. Cosmos - the universe seen as a well-ordered whole. (New Oxford American Dictionary)
	2. **Genesis 1:31** – After God created everything, He saw it was ***“very good.”***
		1. The use of ***“very good”*** to describe creation inheres a concept of orderliness.
		2. “The term ‘good,’ as here used does not refer to moral qualities, or to righteousness in any sense; for it was applied to all creation – to the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all things on the earth. Man was good in the sense that all things else were good – they were perfectly adapted to the purpose God had in view when he created them.” (Robert L. Whiteside)
		3. **God had a plan in creation, and it was fulfilled TO THE VERY ORDER HE INTENDED. (EXAMPLE: Laws of nature – gravity, etc.)**
		4. The ways of nature, all the cycles and patterns, are according to the divine order.
			1. **Hebrews 1:3** – upholds all by His word.
			2. EX: Water cycle – **Job 36:27-28**
8. The Revelation
	1. Scripture is Divinely given – **2 Timothy 3:16** – this would imply that it bears the qualities of the Divine. (Infallibility – unity – etc.)
		1. It is not susceptible to self-contradiction – **2 Corinthians 1:18-20** – His yes is yes.
	2. The description of scripture as a “pattern” boasts orderliness – **2 Timothy 1:13**
		1. Something for imitation.
		2. Cannot imitate that which is self-contradictory, and random.
		3. **Cf. Hebrews 8:5** – Moses was given a pattern to adhere to, as are we. (Tabernacle.)
	3. Revelation of the historical enforcement of pattern:
		1. When men rebelled against God’s demanded order they were punished.
		2. Nadab and Abihu offering profane fire – **Leviticus 10**
		3. Korah, Dathan and Abiram rebel against God’s priestly order – **Numbers 16**
		4. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it – **Numbers 20**
		5. Transportation of the ark on a new cart, and Uzzah reaching to touch it – **2 Samuel 6**
		6. Jesus’ words – **Matthew 7:21-23 (anomia – without law – very much the essence of being disorderly, or without order – anarchy)**
9. Godliness Demands Order
10. Godliness – eusebeia – from eu, “well,” and sebomai, “to be devout,” denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. (Vine)
	1. Intended product of the gospel – **1 Timothy 3:16**
	2. Christians are those who revere God, and should be described as “well devout” before Him.
	3. Such DEMANDS ORDER – i.e. according to His order.
11. In the Study of Scripture
	1. An orderly study of God’s word is demanded of believers – **2 Timothy 3:15** – diligence in study.
		1. Rightly dividing – “handling aright” (ASV); “accurately handling” (NASB)
		2. Implies an improper handling of scripture – approaching scripture without order.
	2. Disorderly “studying” (not study at all) – **2 Peter 3:16** – leads to destruction.
	3. Hold fast the pattern – **2 Timothy 1:13** – requires diligence to establish the pattern.
		1. Jerusalem council – **Acts 15:1-2** – Went to consider the question. (Really to make sure the truth was taught and practiced according to pattern.)
		2. **Acts 15:6-11** – ultimately appealed to a pattern whereby men were saved. (God saves each in the same way – by the same method or pattern or plan – gospel plan.)
12. In Worship
	1. Worship is a reverent approach to the One Who is of ORDER to display such reverence in a positive projection.
	2. **1 Corinthians 14:33, 40** – there is a worship that is decent and orderly.
		1. Which means there is worship that is indecent and disorderly.
	3. We supply structure as an expediency in carrying out this requirement of God:
		1. Times of worship
		2. Order of worship
		3. Leaders of worship
		4. Etc.
		5. These provide for a setting of orderliness and reverence.
	4. He prescribes how – **John 4:24** – must be ordered as such.
		1. Spirit – our inner man must be involved – spiritual. (Not merely outward.)
		2. Truth – according to the standard of God.
		3. EX: **Acts 20:6-7** – waited 7 days to assemble on the 1st day to worship and observe the LS. (Pattern)
		4. Acts of worship – Singing, Praying, Lord’s Supper, Giving, Preaching – all demand order.
	5. Order of practice and heart – **Matthew 15:7-9** – go hand in hand.
13. In Attire
	1. It is clear that how we dress says something about us. Dress that is according to God’s order denotes a heart that fears Him.
	2. **1 Timothy 2:9-10** – apparel must be modest, that which reflects the profession of godliness (piety toward God).
		1. Adorn – *kosmeō* – put in proper order. (clothe)
		2. Modest – *kosmios* – orderly, well arranged. (where we get COSMOS – describing the order of the universe.)
		3. I.e. put yourself in order by clothing yourself in an orderly fashion.
		4. HOW?
			1. Propriety – bashfulness; downcast eyes. (“shamefacedness”, KJV)
				1. Concerning nakedness – shame of nakedness – dress in such away that reflects such – COVERING THE NAKEDNESS.
				2. Shoulders to knees (**Genesis 3:21** – tunic); waist to thighs (**Exodus 28:42** – trousers); thigh (**Isaiah 47:2-3** – uncovered thigh).
				3. Essentially, covering the nakedness which is the area from the shoulders down to the knees (where the thigh ends). (Front and back)
			2. Moderation – soundness of mind; sound judgment.
				1. “it is that habitual inner self-government, with its constant rein on all the passions and desires, which would hinder the temptation to these from arising, or at all events from arising in such strength as would overbear the checks and barriers which aidos (shamefastness) opposed to it” (Trench Syn. Sec.xx, end).
				2. I.e. we know what nakedness is, and that modest dress covers such, AND GOD DEMANDS SOUND OR HEALTHY JUDGMENT CONCERNING WHAT WE WEAR SO AS TO COVER THIS.
				3. EX: not tight, see-through, clingy, revealing in any way, etc.
				4. NOTE**: 1 Timothy 2:15** – “self-control” is this word translated “moderation.” WITHOUT SUCH WE CANNOT BE SAVED.
			3. I.e. what is proper for professing godliness with good works – i.e. living a pious life before God.\
	3. What are we trying to project? – **1 Peter 3:3-6**
14. In Conduct
	1. Our conduct (behavior), i.e. the way we carry ourselves, and act from day to day, and moment to moment is to be ordered according to God.
	2. **Colossians 3:17** – our conduct is according to Christ’s rule.
	3. **Galatians 2:20** – we let Christ dictate our conduct.
	4. Timothy was commanded to be an example in conduct – **1 Timothy 4:12-16** – how? By taking heed to the doctrine.
	5. **Philippians 1:27** – conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ.
		1. Regardless of Paul’s presence their conduct should be in line with the gospel.
		2. **Philippians 2:12** – obedience in fear of God.

**Conclusion** – God and order are inseparable. Our approach to Him, and thoughts about Him must to reflect this truth. Is there order according to God in our lives?