**The Precedent for Present Pattern**

*2 Timothy 1:13*

**Introduction**

1. The emphasis on authority in religious practice is scarce today and is even waning among the Lord’s people.
2. There have been efforts to cast aspersion on those who make authority and the pattern of the New Testament a point of emphasis.
3. It is believed by some that grace and pattern/law are different things, and that the emphasis of New Testament Christians should be on the former, not the latter.
4. The Bible reveals God as One who condescends to man by grace through His revelation, which always has included pattern. **There is precedent for a present pattern.**
5. The God of Order
6. The Nature of God
   1. **1 Corinthians 14:33** – not of confusion, but order. (***“the author”*** – supplied)
      1. ***“for God is not a God of confusion but of peace” (NASB)***
      2. ***“for God is not characterized by disorder but by peace” (NET)***
   2. ***“Not characterized by disorder”*** – *akatastasia* – “opposition to established authority, disorder, unruliness” (BDAG)
      1. Effect – “a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion, tumult” (VINE)
      2. **James 3:16 *(“confusion”)*** – from worldly wisdom in the heart (bitter envy and self-seeking) – opposition to authority of God and evil are there.
      3. **God is not a libertinist or anarchist. He is not a God who allows His creation to dictate for themselves what is proper.**
   3. **Opposite** – He is characterized by order – **(v. 37)** – there are commandments from the Lord to regulate the use of Spiritual Gifts.
7. Our Responsibility
   1. We are to submit to His order, and He has made such discernable, and attainable.
   2. **1 Corinthians 14:20** – we are to understand His purpose, and be innocent in regard to standing opposed to it.
      1. **Understanding** – in context, the purpose of gifts, their proper use, especially in reference to tongue speaking.
         1. They were prideful about gifts – tongue speaking.
         2. They were children in understanding – using them contrary to God’s order/pattern.
      2. **Malice** – *kakia* – “describes a person or a thing as not being what he or it should be according to nature, idea, or purpose.” (Lenski)
         1. Be innocent as a babe in being contrary to God’s commands/order/pattern.
   3. **1 Corinthians 14:26-33** – the assertion that God is not characterized by confusion is preceded by instruction for controlling the gifts according to God’s order.
      1. **(vv. 33b-38)** – this was a pattern given to all the churches.
      2. **1 Corinthians 4:17** – everywhere, every church.
8. The Effect
   1. Paul does not give the exact contrast/opposite of confusion – order.
   2. He asserts that God is of peace – the effect of order.
   3. **Enemies of the pattern are naïve in their belief that true peace is in the disposal of the pattern. PEACE IS THE PRODUCT OF THE PATTERN.**
9. The Pattern in Creation
10. Creation Issued from Wisdom
    1. **Psalm 104:24** – they boast of God’s wisdom. (**cf. Psalm 19:1**)
    2. **Psalm 148:1-6** – commanded, decree – words of order and pattern – expressions of His divine wisdom.
    3. CREATION IS A PRODUCT OF, THUS A REFLECTION OF, THE MIND OF GOD – it demonstrates the truth of – **1 Corinthians 14:33**
11. Creation Manifests Order and Pattern
    1. From chaos to order – **Genesis 1:1-5**
       1. ***“without form, and void”*** – chaos
       2. ***“Then God said” (v. 3)*** – order, life, purpose follow.
    2. **There is order and pattern in creation, as can be observed in the account – cosmos – the universe as a well ordered whole.**
       1. The very sequence in which God created follows this logic of order.
       2. The earth was made habitable before the animals were created.
       3. All was created for man to have dominion over – **Genesis 1:26**
          1. **Order, Pattern, Purpose.**
          2. EX: stars/etc. for signs and seasons **(v. 14);** vegetation and animal life reproduces according to its kind/seed (**vv. 11-12, 24-25)**
    3. ***“And God saw that it was good.”*** (**Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31** – very)
       1. Not an expression of moral significance.
       2. **The observation of God’s own creation as perfectly suited to its purpose – an exact product of eternal design.**
12. Creation is the Precedent for All Pattern
    1. Not simply the order we see in creation, and the observed pattern of natural law, etc.
    2. **Spiritual pattern and revelation – as God manifests His unique nature to us.**
    3. **Chaos** – **Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 34:11**
       1. ***“without form, and void” = “confusion…emptiness”***
       2. Isaiah context: **Isaiah 34:1-2** – judgment on nations for their evil rebellion against God.
       3. **The opposition to God’s authority leads to the opposite of what God’s order would produce:**
          1. ***“line of confusion”*** – “line” is a measuring instrument for building.
          2. ***“stones of emptiness”*** – “stones” as in the process of building.
          3. ***The instruments used for precise building are used in pulling down.***
    4. **Order** – **Genesis 1:3** – the order issued forth from God’s word.
       1. Light – **Psalm 119:105**
       2. Light come into the world – **John 1:4-5**
    5. With man, chaos would come from a rebellion against God’s pattern/law – **Romans 5:12**
       1. God would not have confusion, but order, thus peace/fellowship with man.
       2. Man’s rejection of order and pattern produced animosity, and severed fellowship.
    6. From that rejection of a pattern came the implementation of a pattern to offer salvation to the world – **Genesis 3:15** – only this ***“Seed”*** would offer such victory.
13. The Pattern in Priesthood
14. The Significance of the Priesthood
    1. **Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22** – blood is offered on the altar for forgiveness.
    2. **Hebrews 7:27; 8:3; 9:6-7** – High Priests offer gifts and sacrifices – offers the blood for atonement.
    3. Pattern – **Hebrews 7:11** – ***“for under [the Levitical priesthood] the people received the law”***
       1. The law presupposes the priesthood. (where normally an institution presupposes the law)
       2. It is not that the priesthood issued forth from the law, but that the law issued forth from the priesthood.
       3. **Manifests:**
          1. **The preeminence of the priesthood as the central focus.**
          2. **The nature of the priesthood as being one of detail, order, and pattern to uphold**.
15. The Superiority of Christ’s Priesthood
    1. **Hebrews 7:11** – Perfection is not through the Levitical priesthood.
       1. **Hebrews 10:1-4** – perfection (completion) in regard to atonement/sacrifice.
       2. The priests themselves were not fitting to the ultimate end – **Hebrews 7:21, 23, 27-28** – not by oath, limited by death, in need of sacrifice themselves.
    2. Contrast of Christ’s High Priesthood – **Hebrews 7:19-28** – better hope, by an oath, better covenant, lives forever, unchangeable priesthood, always lives to make intercession, holy/harmless/undefiled, sacrifice offered once (**cf. Hebrews 10:11-14**).
16. The Pattern of Christ’s Priesthood
    1. Order of Melchizedek – **Hebrews 5:9-10**
    2. Not the Order of Aaron – **Hebrews 7:11**
    3. **Order** *– taxis* – “an arrangement in which someone or someth. functions, arrangement, nature, manner, condition, outward aspect” (BDAG)
       1. “Perh. it is in this way that Hb understood Ps 109:4b, which the author interprets to mean that Jesus was a high priest κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισέδεκ according to the nature of = **just like Melchizedek** i.e. like the type of arrangement made for the functioning of M.: 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11a, 17, 21 v.l. In any case the reference is not only to the higher ‘rank’, but also to **the entirely different nature** of Melchizedek’s priesthood as compared w. that of Aaron 7:11b.” (BDAG)
       2. I.e. Christ’s High Priesthood could not be superior to Aaron’s if patterned after the same.
       3. **Christ’s High Priesthood is superior to Aaron’s because it is patterned after one superior to Aaron (cf. Genesis 14:18-24):**
          1. King and priest **(v. 1).**
          2. Blessed Abraham **(vv. 1, 7).**
          3. Received a tenth from Abraham **(vv. 4, 9-10).**
          4. Without beginning or end **(v. 3). (Thus, appointed by God, not priest by genealogy like Aaronic.)**
    4. Dependent on a change of law – **Hebrews 7:11-19** – regardless of the superiority of Melchizedek, the blessings of Christ’s High Priesthood could not come in contradiction to the pattern of the Old Law – there had to be an inauguration of a New Law and pattern (**cf. Hebrews 8:13** – as was always God’s plan).
17. **Therefore, the very blessings of God’s grace and mercy in Christ’s service as High Priest are inseparable from His implementation of pattern.**
18. The Pattern in the Tabernacle
19. God’s Desire for Fellowship
    1. **Exodus 19:3-6** – it is God who chose Israel and made effort toward a relationship.
       1. **(v. 5)** – contingent upon obedience, and loyalty to covenant.
       2. **(v. 6)** – contingent upon God’s arrangement – priesthood, holiness.
    2. Eventually, despite God’s incredible efforts to maintain fellowship with Israel, they would be cut off due to their failure to meet God’s conditions – **Isaiah 65:2-5**
       1. **(vv. 3-5)** – this is language of idolatry ritual implemented by Israel.
       2. These things were directly forbidden and did not harmonize with the pattern.
20. God’s Arrangement for Fellowship
    1. Sanctuary/tabernacle is instrumental in God’s fellowship with the nation – **Exodus 25:8; 29:43-46** (*Note: ministry includes consecrated priests*)
    2. This would typify a future, messianic tabernacle – **Ezekiel 37:26-28**
21. The Tabernacle Demonstrates Heavenly Communication and Fellowship Through Pattern
    1. **Exodus 25:8-9** – tabernacle to be made according to commanded pattern shown Moses. (God’s presence depends on it being according to the pattern.)
    2. **Exodus 39:32** – they erected the tabernacle exactly according to pattern.
    3. **Exodus 40:34** – God’s presence, His revelation, direction, mercy, grace was among Israel – connection with the pattern being faithfully kept.
22. The Perpetuation of Pattern
23. The Tabernacle and Today
    1. The pattern for the earthly tabernacle typified the true heavenly substance – **Hebrews 8:4-6** – Moses could not have known anything about the ***“heavenly things”*** except through the pattern.
       1. Each detail was specifically given for a reason.
       2. **If there was a deviation from the pattern, it would not truly represent the heavenly, or God’s will.**
       3. **(v. 6) – This is mentioned in context to demonstrate Christ’s service in the better, true tabernacle as a Mediator of a better covenant – WHICH WE ARE UNDER!.**
    2. **Divine revelation of pattern is always with significance – to truly represent the heavenly, we must do it exactly as God revealed.**
       1. **Hebrews 9:1** – earthly sanctuary.
       2. **Hebrews 9:11, 23** – greater and more perfect tabernacle.
       3. **Hebrews 9:6; 1 Peter 2:5** – we are serving as priests in the more perfect tabernacle, awaiting our entrance behind the veil.
24. There is a Pattern, and We Must Hold it Fast
    1. **2 Timothy 1:13** – what pattern is he speaking of? – the New Testament, commandments of the Lord (**cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37**).
    2. **2 Thessalonians 2:15** – apostolic tradition – i.e. inspired tradition of revelation (**cf. Acts 2:42** – apostles’ doctrine)
    3. **2 John 9-11** – fellowship with God is contingent upon this pattern (**v. 4** – revealed truth) – keeping the pattern is a blessing!

**Conclusion** – There has always been pattern since the beginning as a significant role in the relationship between God and man. To ignore it is to reject fellowship with God.