

## Two Out of Three Isn't Bad, No, It's Disastrous!

By Calvin Jones

For years we've watched, prayed, acted as best we know how to come to the aid of our country. We've known something is wrong, we've seen God's law play a smaller and smaller role in our civil government, ecclesiastical government and family governments. Our civil realm bears the sword in vain. It won't execute God's vengeance on those committing capital crimes, our churches condone unbiblical divorces, patriarchal families have all but been replaced by the matriarchal communist alternative.

We've worked on the paradigm in the civil realm that if we want real change we must first see revival and mass conversion so that 51% of the population wants God and His Law-Word. We've also called our senators and representatives and lobbied hard for Biblical Law to be enacted by them. Some of us have even run for legislative seats and most all of us have at least exercised our constitutional right to vote each election.

Is this really the Biblical model, the Biblical paradigm that Christians are to employ? Perhaps it is, perhaps it is not. My father spent many a year lobbying at the South Dakota legislature. He stood for righteousness according to this paradigm. I've spent most of my life in this paradigm as well being active in politics as a delegate and active in my local caucus, helping others get voted in and calling my elected representatives. I know the paradigm well.

However, after the past few years of watching the results of this paradigm and seeing nothing of consequence actually change I'm rethinking the action I as a Christian need to take. Specifically, I have come head to head with the fact that as Christians, the Church is Israel now. This means that we are a people, separate and holy unto the Lord, just as the Israelites were. 2 Corinthians tells us we are no different than the Israelites who were called out of all the nations to be God's own separate people, holy to Him. He tells us plainly in repetition of what he told his people through the prophet Isaiah that

“Depart! Depart! Go out from there,  
Touch no unclean *thing*;  
Go out from the midst of her,  
Be clean” (Is. 52:11)

Isaiah's audience (Old Testament Israel) had a specific command from God to be a separate people unto Him. They were not to take other's gods to be their own, they were not to intermarry, not to dress as the unbelievers, talk as the fools, contemplate the art of the heathen, obey their laws, offer their sacrifices etc. They were to be the city of God on earth, obeying their Lord in every detail of this command, separate and distinct from the city of man.

Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives us the **same** message as Isaiah did, only stronger, as he repeats God's command for the Christians of the New Covenant. His marching order for cultural secession in 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18 are unequivocal:

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

"Therefore come out from them  
and be separate, says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,  
and I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you,  
and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Perhaps you'd like to read this again. Paul emphasizes this point so strongly because he knows you and I will miss it. Ten sentences repeating the same thing over and over and over and over again. Do not be in fellowship with Satan, unbelievers, idolaters, darkness, wickedness, etc. Instead, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

The problem that must be recognized and faced by Christians today is that their duty in the civil realm has not been met. We have not "come out from among them" civilly. It is not good enough to try our best to get good laws passed. It is not good enough to try to get good men to pass good laws. It is not good enough to vote in the next election. The reasons are simple enough.

First, no matter what we think, God and God alone is the sole legislator. Many Christians have alluded to this but have never connected the dots to the first and primary cause of our failed civil government. I heard D. James Kennedy, for example, a number of years ago state the obvious fact that in Old Testament Israel there was no legislative branch. God was the legislative branch.

Hmmmm.... So connect the dots with me then. Why would one assume our civil governments are even remotely qualifying for God's protection and blessing (and thus our efforts to reform them) if they are, by the very fact of replacing God as The Legislator with a human legislative branch committing the blasphemous and idolatrous act of playing God? Rushdoony has pointed out over and over that your god is the sovereign who gives you your laws. If man is legislating, then he is your god, not Jehovah. Make no mistake about it.

Simple, yes, but dot connecting isn't really all that hard. It's just sometimes hard to swallow the picture that forms when the dots are connected. There is no harmony with man's idolatrous view of creating law autonomously and the Biblical command to obey only God's law, as He alone is our sovereign and He has revealed to us once and for all time, The Law. This means we don't merely take His law and rework it in our state and federal governments. No, if we serve Jehovah, His law is unchangeable and any jot or

little difference between what God has proclaimed and what we accept as law is merely injustice. Israel indeed had the executive, judicial and legislative branches, but they did **not** pretend that these were all human branches. Before they rejected God as their King and Lawgiver in 1 Samuel 7, God's laws were obeyed as given, without being modified by some legislative branch in Israel. Israel's tasks in civil government was **judicial** and **executive** in nature. God gave them judges to apply God's law and depending on the crime, the people as a whole were to execute justice in the case of capital crimes.

Where did we get the idea in this country of a body of people called a Senate? From God's Word? Or from a failed empire that God destroyed? It's high time we quit the nonsense of teaching our children that our federal government is a model of the Hebrew Republic when it is merely another form of a humanist state where man or "we the people" are the sovereign law givers. Man cannot legislate what is a crime any more than he can legislate what is a physical law of the universe. If you have a human legislative branch your government has got a fatal flaw in its foundation and thus it doesn't stand a chance, it cannot last.

I find it ludicrous now to spend time and energy trying to get a Christian elected to replace God and legislate for us. The best we can hope for by electing a man who claims the name of Christ into the city of man's government is someone that replaces Christ's legislation with his own. This is blasphemous. No Christian should ever run to commit such idolatry. A Christian legislator is an oxymoron.

Christ has given us His law, so there's no justifiable reason to pay men to sit around and come up with their own. This too is a waste of money and time. Rather, we read in Deuteronomy then when they were disobedient and wanted a King instead of Jehovah (which they did in 1 Samuel 7) that God commanded the King thus:

“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left...” (Deut. 17:18-20)

Again, even the King who would later be anointed by God's prophet **couldn't legislate either**. He could not “turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left.” The human king had one command regarding law. He was to be a **great copyist** not legislator! Now in our New Covenant era, you really can't expect me to believe we need to pay a multitude of “professed” legislators to do this.

Let's face it. We have failed to obey the command to be separate and distinct in our civil duties. No where does God in the old or new covenants call us to go to Sodom's city council, plead that they would pass an ordinance against homosexuality and if that doesn't work, see if we can get “our men” into **their** city council. It's time we stopped

wasting our time trying to prop up such governments of the city of man. We have a different task, a different paradigm according to God's Word.

As Christians holy and separate unto God, we need to do as the Israelites did and as Paul commands us today. In his first letter to the Corinthians he says this:

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?" (1 Cor 6:1-7)

As Rushdoony points out about this command,

We know from 1 Corinthians 6 [paraphrase] that Paul said: "Don't go to the civil courts. They're ungodly. Create your own courts." And they did. **"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" (1 Cor. 6:1).** They were so efficient that after a while pagans were coming to the church courts and saying: "Adjudicate our problems for us. It takes years to get a case heard in the civil courts and it bankrupts us and then we don't get justice. Would you do it for us?" When Constantine became Emperor, he called in the bishops and he said, "The courts of the Empire are failing. We have cases that have been in the courts forty years with no justice. I want you men when you go out in the streets to wear the garb of a Roman magistrate by my orders so that the people of Rome and of the Empire will no that they can come to you for justice. Well, that's where the bishop's garb comes from. Unless a bishop has heard me lecture on the subject, he doesn't know where his own bishop's robe originates.

Unlike our churches today, the early Christians didn't skip over 1 Cor. 6. They didn't make the three spheres God has given to rule man of family, church and civil realms into two spheres, family and church. No, they obeyed God and instituted the civil government of the Bishop's Court amongst themselves. Google Bishop's Court and you'll find books on the subject.

Let's take a close look at this often overlooked and rarely implemented passage of scripture. Notice here that these were civil matters. The Christians were going to law against one another before the pagans. These were not ecclesiastical matters, but matters involving disputes requiring the deprivation of people's property (vs. 7 speaks of being

cheated out of one's property rights) which the Corinthians thought needed to be adjudicated by the unbelievers! Hmmm... has anything changed here today?

What's more, the Christians are to judge the world and even angels, and therefore were crazy to go before the world to be judged. This is backwards, Paul says, and when God's people figure this out, as Rushdoony pointed out, even the unbelievers will be coming to God's people to be judged so that they too can have true justice afforded by God's holy and perfectly just law.

How about **that** for a paradigm shift in thinking about civil matters? There's an economic enterprise here for Christians who will get off their dufts and obey 1 Corinthians 6 in reading up and understanding righteous application of God's Law for man today. It is past due, as there is very little justice even today in our modern empire's courts in the US. We have been given God's perfect law. The pagans don't know justice from injustice. We are hiding the light of God's law when we withhold it from the unbelievers by not instituting it ourselves in our own midst for them to see and then hold court for the pagans that will soon salivate over actual justice as the Roman people did when the God's people held this light before them.. This is part of our calling as priests to the nations, to give the world the **full** light of the gospel which **includes** God's civil and criminal statutes (read Psalm 119 if this is not your attitude as a Christian towards God's law).

What you have here in the New Testament is parallel governments. The first parallel governments acting simultaneously were the city of man's ecclesiastical government and the city of God's ecclesiastical government. In a.d. 33 when Jesus instituted the church, he gave them the keys of the kingdom and proclaimed the church as his appointed government in ecclesiastical realms. However, **at the same time** the faux church of the heathen continued practicing its blasphemous sacrifices in the Jewish temple and the city of man's priests and high priest continued wielding authority. In Acts 23-24 we read how Ananias the High Priest laid claim to having authority over Paul. Yet at the same time, Paul was an apostle with authority in the church of God! Two parallel ecclesiastical governments operating **concurrently**. Now when God had sufficiently established the true church, the false church was taken out of the way in a.d. 70 with the destruction of the temple with its sacrifices, genealogical records, and authority. (This is why today, you and I don't have to worry about insulting the high priest as Paul did in Acts 23:4 as their cannot even be a high priest or priest for that matter and those who claim authority in Judaism in reality have no authority over you or I.) But this was **after** the institution of a parallel ecclesiastical government of Christ's church was established 37 years earlier. You see God didn't wait around and say, well, when you guys have got 51% of the populace to believe upon me, then you can institute a true church of Christ and we can vote out of office those nasty Jewish priests who hate me.

In the old covenant, God's people were to be a kingdom of Priests to the nations. We read this in Exodus 19:16

“And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation**’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Since the church is Israel now, we would expect to see the exact same position of the church in the New Covenant and indeed we do. Notice 1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you *are* a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

Notice here that he is speaking to the church including all Jewish and Gentile Christians, those who “once were not a people but are now the people of God”. The church today is unquestioningly the New Covenant priests of God to administer the truth of God’s word through family, church **and** civil realms to the world.

We have settled for instituting 2 out of 3. We are content to bear witness as priests of the living God in family and church realms, but have forgotten the third realm of God’s trinity of governments, the civil law code of almighty God. This is disastrous for God’s people and the world to which they are commanded to be salt and light.

Now we see the parallel governments in the civil arena as well. As I’ve mentioned, the early church obeyed God’s command for exclusive Christian civil government. **This means while the Roman civil government was in operation, the believers’ civil government was also operating concurrently just as in the case of the ecclesiastical governments!** This makes a few people more than nervous today. What, start another civil government, here, in the US, now? They might call that pesky upstart early church, a bunch of seditious and subversive insurrectionists. To the emperor, all too true (remember though the Roman people welcomed the refreshing winds of true justice from the believers’ courts). To God, the early church was obedient and he blessed them and eliminated their enemy empire and left them standing with the reigns of civil authority.

According to 1 Cor. 6, only Christians are competent to judge as they will be judging angels. See another problem with **all** our pagan civil governments in the US? Only Christians can adjudicate as jurors or judges. You will not remedy this in the civil governments of men in the US. They won’t stand for it, nor are you to force it. There’s no need. When God’s people begin to govern themselves in all areas including the civil realm in a parallel concurrent civil government among Christians in community, then God will remove the city of man’s government as he did Rome. God will not allow mankind to be without a functioning civil government (even if it’s a bad one, as bad government is better than anarchy). When God’s people through the Bishop’s courts faithfully judged themselves, they then went on to judging the unbelievers and God then wiped out the Roman empire leaving God’s people to continue to adjudicate for the nations in the absence of Rome and its civil government which had all been destroyed. Rushdoony observes:

When Rome fell, for six centuries, the only courts of Europe were the church courts for arbitration. When Rome was gone, the government, the state was gone, but Europe had justice because the church provided it. This was the pattern through much of the Middle Ages. It was the pattern of the Reformation.

It should be noted here that this adjudication was indeed done by the church as the people of God, not as the ecclesiastical institution of the church. While the Roman state was gone, the civil government of 1 Cor. 6, the **true** civil Christian state remained. As in the city of Geneva during the reformation, there was a separation of the institution of the civil government from the institution of the ecclesiastical government notwithstanding any claims to the contrary by revisionists today.

See the plan here folks? Starting to get the picture yet? Are the dots starting to connect with you on this?

Our job as Christians is to begin taking our calling seriously as priests to the nations but only after we've first learned God's law and how to accurately and wisely apply it to civil matters amongst ourselves. This requires that Christians organize and covenant together in not **just** ecclesiastical realms but also in civil realms as well. If you've got a great family and church, that's wonderful and you are blessed indeed, but it's only two out of three. You're not there yet. You have a gaping hole in your accountability to God's trinity of governments. Two out of three won't cut it.

Remember, these are civil matters which are not matters to be judged by church officers other than the disciplining of sin. Matthew 16:19 says, "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." . The Heidelberg Catechism, one of the great confessions of the Reformation comments on this passage in Question and Answer, 83:

Q. What is the Office of the Keys?

A. The Preaching of the Holy Gospel and Church Discipline; by which two things the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers and shut against unbelievers."

The church has been given the keys of the kingdom, namely the preaching of the Word of God and exercise of Biblical church discipline. This is the limit or bounds of their authority.

The civil government, not the church, has the power of the sword and thus the power therefore to deprive individuals of their property or lives. This is **not** the function of the **institution** of the church (elders, pastors), folks. **But** it is a requirement of God's body - the church (the people of God in community as believers) who form not only churches amongst their community and families, but also their own civil government. I've heard more than one pastor try to tell me that the institution of the church basically has this power in the new covenant. This is false. The reformers taught clearly that the institution of the church has been given only the keys of the kingdom and opposed the Roman Catholics who tried to wield the sword as the legitimate power of the church.

What would happen if we were to ignore or downplay the Persons of the Trinity today? Do we really need all three today? Maybe two are sufficient. But hey, when's the last time you showed up in church and saw tongues of fire on people's heads, miraculously scientifically bona fide healings, or prophecies that came true? Maybe that third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit just really isn't around much for people today. Maybe if we've got our doctrine all correct, we don't really need Him that much, just Jesus and the Father. Maybe we can just ignore the Holy Spirit and His work today. Talk like this would get you some serious discipline in any true church today, as it should.

However, this is what we do with God's trinity of governments. We completely ignore God's command to establish amongst ourselves the 3<sup>rd</sup> sphere of civil government today and go frolicking along our way, showing up at the courthouse of pagans Monday morning to attend our child custody hearing with our spouse who also claims to be Christian, or suing our Christian brother in municipal court for not paying what they owed to us, etc.

We can hide behind our efforts to vote for the good guy in November and tell ourselves, "Well, we did all we could for Christ's kingdom in the civil realm this year honey."

That won't cut it. You see 1 Corinthians 6 doesn't have the qualifiers many have put upon achieving God's civil government today. Paul didn't say, "Well, when you get a majority of Romans to become believers (maybe 5-10 generations later), then maybe we can vote the rascally emperor out and institute a constitutional republic". Sorry, no qualifiers here. It's not about "trying our bestest" to get that dadburned sodomite legislature to see things God's way. That's because God's plan for righteous civil government **doesn't** begin with the wicked city of man's imposter of a civil realm and some supposed duty we think we have to "make 'em see it our way". God's plan for civil government among His people has little to do with the city of man's empire and its fools. It has everything to do with God's people covenanting together in family, church **and** civil realms accountable to obey God in all these areas and to set up simple effective righteous civil justice amongst God's people. This is priority one in the civil realm that we as Christians need to concern ourselves with.

What's all this look like? If there are enough Christians to gather to worship in some locality on planet earth, there are enough Christians to gather for Biblical Christian civil order amongst them. Membership in the communities of God are through civil and ecclesiastical covenant. So to me it looks like Christian Covenant Communities all over the world in confederation with one another. This is not, as some would suppose, a pipe dream. The early Christians didn't consider it a pipe dream and they had far more persecution than we'll ever have today and they did it, and so must we. It is a command, not an option. That makes it the real world in my book.

This is the paradigm shift in our perspective on civil government that we need taught from our pulpits today and implemented today amongst God's people. What a waste to see men fool around trying to get a good law in place when in a heartbeat it can be



overturned with the next bill via our little pretend legislators making fiat law. Now that, to me, is a waste of kingdom time and resources. Forget reforming our civil governments which are corrupt at their foundation. Forget trying to salvage a government school system which is flawed at its base (Marxist redistribution of wealth is its lifeblood).

It's time to stop alleviating our conscience with a plan that can't work telling ourselves that institution of God's law must be done only after lots of education and conversion amongst the pagans, which in reality is only a cop out. We love to proclaim God's law at conference after conference without ever actually putting it in place as God has commanded us amongst ourselves. We give out the excuse that this can't be done since it depends upon some majority of pagan people to want it and vote for it. 1 Corinthians 6 is clear, conversion of pagan people has nothing to do with God's commands for those who are believers and must have operational righteous civil government amongst themselves, today.

Forget the city of man and his failed government. There's nothing here that a Christian can resurrect according to every state and federal constitution in these united States, because all these constitutions are against the basic tenants of God as sole legislator, (Duet. 17:18-20), instead enshrining the people as the sovereign lawmakers. Secondly, 1 Corinthians. 6 demands that God's people be sole judges applying God's legislation. Pagans can't qualify. Notice there's nothing in 1 Corinthians .6 about us as Christians making up some new law as legislators. Law isn't made, it's revealed. And if it's revealed, it does not have a human source but only a divine.

Our marching orders are for action today, not tomorrow. Today, we must begin proclaiming and executing Christ's judgments amongst ourselves and then to the world around us, not just speak to the choir at the next conference about how we're supposedly doing battle in the civil realm for Christ's Kingdom. We haven't got a clue and the world knows it. As long as we're happy to be judged by the pagans, they've got us right where Satan wants us, salt without flavor, licking up the crumbs the Sodomites toss to us now and then with a supposed "good law" thrown to us here and there. So what of the old paradigm? Politically correct political action according to current church leadership? Yes. Effective Biblical Christian civil government? Never. You can't squeeze blood out of a turnip and you can't get righteous civil government out of pagan ideas contrary to God's commands. You have as much of a chance of eliminating the sodomite legislatures as John Calvin did reforming the Pope. I'll put my money on Christians obeying 1 Corinthians 6, not in getting the Federal Reserve audited. I'm for the new (really old) paradigm of implementing what the early Christians did in 1 Corinthians 6.

So how do we implement exclusively Christian civil courts. That's the subject of the next article. For now, meditate on 1 Corinthians 6 and let the Biblical paradigm sink into your heart, soul and mind. Think of the reign of Christ as paramount to your happiness on planet earth. The great reformer and the most influential mentor of John Calvin, Martin Bucer, wrote a book called *De Regno Christi* which translated means The Reign of Christ.

“According to his [Martin Bucer’s] understanding, this Kingdom was the expression of the Kingship of Christ. Regnum Christi meant for him the reign or rule of Christ as manifested in the life of mankind ordered according to Christ’s will as revealed in the Bible. The true life is realizable only in a Christocracy, i.e., no man can live ‘well and happily,’ except in a Christocratic society, i.e. a Christian commonwealth (republica Christiana) Which is shaped and dominated by the Christian Church and a Christian government.” (De Regno Christi, Editor’s Introduction, pg 167)