



**O u t l i n e**  
**Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint**

I. Introduction – The God of Order

- A. Psalm 19:1-4 – "The heavens declare the glory of God ..."
  
- B. Job 12:7-8 – "But ask the animals, and they will teach you ..."
  
- C. Listening to a chicken egg – The exquisite design and intricacy seen in a chicken egg  
3 main parts – Shell, Yolk, Albumen (egg white)  
Order – random, purposeless, mindless forces should produce random, purposeless, mindless cosmos.
  
- D. Scriptural emphasis of order – Job 25:2, 1 Corinthians 14:33, James 3:16

II. Social Order – The Divine Imprint

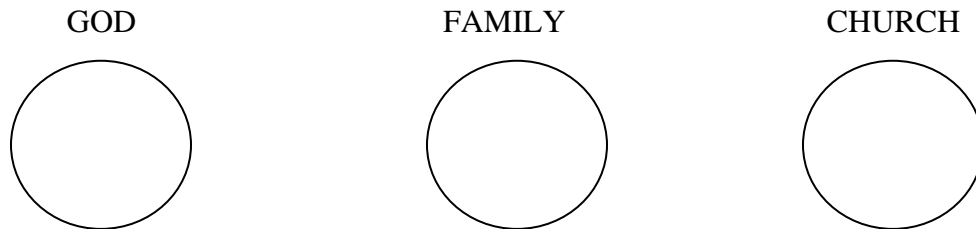
- A. "It is not good" – Genesis 2:18 – Why was it "not good" for man to be alone?
  
- B. Triune structure stamped upon Social Order
  - 1. God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
  - 2. Family – Husband, Wife, Children
  - 3. Church – Christ, Leaders, Flock
  - 4. Our world – Three realms – Physical, Spiritual and Social
  
- C. Relationships, Roles, Authority, Submission and Unity within social spheres

III. Importance of relationships

- A. What happened at the fall? – Relationships were severed and damaged – between God & man, man & man, and man & creation

- B. Aloneness - "It is not good for man to be alone" – Aloneness is contrary to God's nature; in all eternity, there had never been aloneness before
- C. God's design of social institutions and social laws
- D. Intimate Three – God's design for unity, intimacy, oneness - Family, Church, God and Man

#### IV. Family & Church



- A. Ephesians 5:22-24 – Roles and relationships of members in these spheres – Authority, Submission, Oneness
- B. Love and Respect between husband and wife
- C. Honor between children and parents, flock and church leaders  
Titus 1:5-6, Acts 20:28, Heb 13:17

#### V. Conclusion – Pathologies of the Family

- A. Divorce – Malachi 2:13-17 – "I hate divorce ... "
- B. Lack of respect – 1 Peter 3:7 – " ... so that nothing will hinder your prayers ... "

## **Key Terms**

### **Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint**

**Intimate Three:** The three social institutions where the Divine Imprint of intimacy and oneness is clearly seen: God and man, family and church. The "oneness" in these three spheres (i.e. the husband and wife become "one") reflect the "oneness" and intimacy within the triune nature of God.

**Order:** An organized state, with elements arranged properly, neatly, or harmoniously.

**Qualitative:** Relating to or based on the quality or character of something.

**Social Institutions/Social Spheres/Social Systems:** Del lists six social systems: Family, Church, God and Man, State, Labor, and Community, with the triune nature of God as the 7<sup>th</sup>. Each of these systems are created by God and have distinct roles and responsibilities for the members within the sphere.

**Social Order:** God's design of social institutions, the function of those social institutions within society, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals within those institutions.

**Submission:** A willingness to operate under the authority of another. This is a divine attribute of God as evidence by the Son submitting to the Father. Submission is therefore found in God's design of social order, for example, the wife submitting to her husband.

**System:** A complex body of related elements organized into a complex whole.

**The Divine Imprint/The Divine Mark:** With respect to God's design of social order, it is the relational aspect of our nature that reflects the relational community within the Godhead. This imprint has been stamped upon individuals and social institutions. Intimacy, union, communion, fellowship, love, and community, are all character traits we share with God.

**Trinity:** The biblical understanding that God is one in essence, yet exists in three distinct persons: Father Son, and Holy Spirit. Each are fully God, and each performs unique roles. All three are one in essence, not three separate gods.

**Visceral:** Proceeding from instinct rather than reasoned thinking; dealing with crude or elemental emotions.

**Willy-nilly:** In a disorganized, unplanned manner; haphazardly