

The Order of Creation-Chaplain Ryan Rupe-February 6 and 13, 2011

Two Orders in Lutheran Theology:

- 1) The Order of Salvation-How God saves you
- 2) The Order of Creation-How God intends to run His world

Presuppositions:

- 1) Our lives are not our own-we belong to Christ
- 2) We are created in God's image. Men and women have equal value and dignity as the crown creatures of the Creation.
- 3) We live for His glory
- 4) We work in His kingdom always with the "*telos*" in mind
- 5) The more order and peace in the world the easier it is for the Gospel to spread within the family, the church and the world.
- 6) We have all have roles in the order of creation.
- 7) There are gender differences; it is not simply a kind of "construct."
- 8) We are not God-He is other! We can argue with Him about how He constructs things (how He runs the church and the universe) but it will do no good.
- 9) The Church, along with the Christian family are the places where the Order of Creation should be observed.
- 10) The Order of Creation is beautiful. It results in His glory and the salvation of His people.

Please Note: Beware the word "subordination" as it comes with so much modern negative baggage. Please put away your preconceptions that you may have of this word (and others that may irritate or even anger you, like "master") and receive the Word for what it is: that we are all under authority and as Christ's servants we shall be forever.

Definitions:

- 1) Subordination: "*hypotage*" What is the best way to understand "subordination?" It carries with it the notion of adjustment to an order, rather than subservience to a person. "To Order into."
- 2) Head: "*kephale*" 2,336 examples and it always refers to one in authority.

Three Segments within the Order of Creation:

- 1) The Order of Government
- 2) The Order of the Household
- 3) The Order of the Church

The Order of the Government (Rom 13, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13)

- 1) To do good works (Titus 3:2)
- 2) Payment of taxes, the payment of custom duties, respect for them and honoring them (Rom 13:7).
- 3) We accept them as God's rulers, His agents (Rom 13:4-6)
- 4) We subordinate ourselves for the reception of benefits from God through our rulers and the possession of a good conscience before God (Rom 13:3-5: 1 Pet 2:14)

Questions:

- 1) Are we to obey all governments-even those we consider evil or simply those we disagree with?
- 2) At what point do we stop obeying those appointed over us?
- 3) Can we speak out without dishonoring them?

The Order of the Household-the Family

- 1) Three different types of relationships: wives and husbands (Eph 5, Col 3:18, Titus 2:5, 1 Pet 3:1, 5); children and parents (Luke 2:51, Eph 6, Titus 2:9, 1 Pet 2:18); servants and masters (Titus 2:9; 1 Pet 2:18).
- 2) The husband, whose head is Christ (1 Cor 11:3), is the head of the wife (1 Cor 11:3, Eph 5:23). The call for subordination of the Christian wife to her husband does not focus on her obedience to him, but on her respect for him as her head (Eph 5:22, 33, 1 Pet 3:2). Its purpose is for her to receive his love (Eph 5:24-27), and, if she is married to an unbeliever, to gain his conversion (1 Pet 3:1-2).
- 3) As Jesus is the head of the church so the husband is head of the family-preserving, protecting and willing to give his life for them.
- 4) Like Jesus and his parents (Luke 2:51), the subordination of children to their parents involves reverence (1 Tim 3:4) and obedience (Eph 6:1; Col 3:20). Its purpose is the reception of prosperity and enjoyment of longevity in the family (Eph 6:1-3).
- 5) Christ is the head of the Church and the head of the family. While He serves us He is still the head. While fathers are the head they serve but never give up their headship.
- 6) As the head of the family men are not to be tyrants-they are always accountable to God and are subordinate to Christ and answerable for their actions. His prayers will not be heard if he screws up his role (1 Pet 3:7).

- 7) The order of the family should always be understood with the *telos* in mind. Salvation is the greatest gift you can give to your spouse and your children.
- 8) Paul always speaks about men and women within the context of marriage.

Problems-What happens when the Order of Creation is not observed?





- 1) Monism-“All is one” “There are no gender differences or distinctions” “All religions are one”
- 2) Gospel reductionism-“Jesus forgives our sins so I can act in a way I decide” “Just let them be happy”
- 3) Quietism-“If we don’t talk about it maybe it will just go away”
- 4) Radical egalitarianism-“We’re all equal in everything”
- 5) Antinomianism-“We live by the Gospel-not the law” “You’re too legalistic”
- 6) Darwinism-“We are not crown creatures” “We have an amoral view of the world”
- 7) Marxism/Deconstructionism-“Male/Female is just something made up by masculine oppressors”

The Order of the Church (1 Cor 14:40)

- 1) Christ is the head (Eph 5:24, see also Eph 4:15, Col 1:18, 2:19).
- 2) Christ subordinates Himself to the Father to do His will (1 Cor 11:3).
- 3) Within that order everybody is subordinate to some others (Eph 5:21).
- 4) The congregation is subordinate to God the Father for the reception of life from him (Heb 12:9; James 4:7) and to Christ for the reception of its salvation (Eph 5:24, see also 4:15-16).
- 5) Its subordination involves adherence to God’s word (Rom 8:7) and the gospel as it is confessed in the creedal statements of the church (2 Cor 9:13). The members of the congregation are subordinate to its leaders who teach God’s Word (1 Cor 16:15-16, 1 Pet 5:5).

Questions:

- 1) Who can teach and preach in the congregation?
- 2) What roles do men and women who are not pastors have within the congregation?

	THE EFFEMINATE LEFT	EGALITARIANISM	THE COMPLEMENTARIAN MIDDLE		MALE DOMINANCE	THE VIOLENT RIGHT
	NO DIFFERENCES "All is one"	Removing or denying many differences between men & women	EQUALITY and DIFFERENCES and UNITY Emphasizing both equality and differences between men & women		Over-emphasizing the differences between men and women	NO EQUALITY "Might makes right"
God	God = creation God as Mother Sophia worship New Age worship	Mutual submission in the Trinity 	God as Trinity 	Father, Son, Holy Spirit: equal value, different roles	Arianism (Son and Holy Spirit not fully God) 	God as one person, not a Trinity, not three persons. Harsh, unloving warrior-God (Allah)
Man Woman	Emasculation of men Defeminization of women	No gender-based role differences in marriage (no "Mars-Venus" differences)		Husband, wife equal value, different roles	Men are better than women Excessive competitiveness to show women as inferior	Men as brutes Women as objects Dehumanization of women
Marriage	Same-sex "marriages" approved	"Mutual submission" Often: husband as "wimp," wife as "usurper"	Husband: loving, humble headship Wife: intelligent, joyful submission to husband	Husband as harsh, selfish, "dictator" Wife as "doormat"	Polygamy, harems, female infanticide	
Children	Children murdered: abortion supported by women who reject feminine roles	Children raised with too little discipline, little respect for authority	Children loved, cared for, valued Children raised with discipline and love	Children raised with harsh discipline, little love or compassion	Children murdered: abortion supported by men who reject masculine responsibility for family	
Family Responsibilities	No family—just "society"	All responsibilities shared equally between husband and wife, or divided according to gifts and interests	Husband: responsible to lead, provide for, protect Wife: responsible to help husband by managing household and nurturing children	Wives forbidden to have own job outside home, or to vote or own property, etc.	Men have all power, women and children are to serve them	
Sex	Homosexuality Lesbianism Violent opposition to God's plan for sex as only between man and woman	Men become un-masculine, unattractive to women Women become un-feminine, unattractive to men Ambivalence toward sex	Monogamous, equally fulfilling intercourse as deepest expression of a great "mystery": equality and differences and unity! Delight in God's plan for sexual expression restrained by bonds of lifelong marriage	Pornography Lust Adultery Excessive attention to sex	Violence against women Rape Violent opposition to God's plan for sex as only within marriage	

Natural Desires	Temptation: unlimited same-sex sexual activity	Moving "contrary to nature" (Rom. 1:26)	Natural desires fulfilled Men and women have deep sense of acting as God made them to act	Moving in exaggeration and distortion of nature	Temptation: unlimited unequal sexual activity
Religion	Feminized religion in churches Pantheism	No governing or teaching roles in church reserved for men	Some governing and teaching roles in church restricted to men	All ministry done by men; women's gifts squelched; Crusades	Militant forms of Islam Religion advanced by violence
Authority	Hatred of authority	Suspicion of authority	Authority exercised within boundaries	Over-use of authority	Abuse of authority
Sports	No competition "everybody wins"	Anti-competition	Competition with fairness and rules Winners honored, losers respected	Excessive competition Losers humiliated	Violent harm to opponents Gladiators fight to death WWF wrestling
Crime	No respect for authority, rampant crime, especially by frustrated, angry men	Criminal seen as victim to be helped, not punished; punishment long delayed	Punishment is speedy, fair; aims at justice plus restoration of criminal	Repressive government, little freedom, debtors' prisons	Excessive punishment, dehumanization of criminals (cut off hand of thief); little crime, but no freedom
Property	No private property; all possessions equalized	No one is allowed to be very rich; large-scale dependence on welfare state and government	Laws protect private property and care for poor; more work and skill earns more wealth; equal opportunity for all	Women cannot own property	Slavery; dehumanization of the poor and weak; all property in hands of few
Education	All-male schools prohibited by law; prohibitions against educating boys and girls separately	Systematic pressure to make boys and girls do equally well in all subjects	Boys and girls both educated, but different preferences, abilities, and sense of calling respected	Boys given preferential treatment in schools	Girls not allowed to be educated
<p>Please note: This chart contains many generalizations and is only meant to show broad tendencies. Most people and many religious systems hold mixed views and have inconsistencies in thinking. Moreover, conscience, social pressure, and the Bible often restrain people from adopting all aspects of non-biblical views. Therefore this chart certainly does not imply that every person or religious system within each column holds to everything in that column. This chart may be duplicated for teaching purposes without charge.</p>					