**God’s Sphere of Government**

God’s Word is true; it is full of life. It speaks to us individually and collectively. Today, a verse will touch you and change you in a certain way. Two years from now, the same verse will reveal God’s hand and direction for your life in a new and fresh way.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” - [2 Timothy 3:16–17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim%203.16%E2%80%9317). God is so deliberate is His Word that it is all important to all people and it is also specific enough to apply to individual situations, needs and responsibilities.

Many theologians point to five spheres of authority:

* + - * 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
				2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
				3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
				4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
				5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In many cases, God speaks to us in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as husbands/wives/children/workers/business owners/pastors/law givers, etc.

For instance, in Proverbs 13:24 when it says, “Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them,” it is clear to us that this passage is for the family, not business or any other sphere. This verse specifically gives the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responsibility for the discipline of a child. That is specific direction for a specific sphere/area of responsibility. However, the message of discipline is important in all areas of responsibility. The message that you need to deal with discipline problems early, if you are in a role of authority and care about the person, is true. In government, in church, and in business, God has specific direction for forms of discipline and, while they are all different, they are all for the benefit of the individual and the group.

Most often in the Bible, direction is given to individuals. However, when the direction is given to a specific sphere of authority, that is important to note. Here are a few questions to consider when studying God’s Word that will make His spheres of authority more clear to you.

Hermeneutics – interpretation of the Bible

1. **What was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_context of the Scripture when it was written?**
2. **What is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Biblical basis, behind what God is saying?**
3. **How does it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to me now?**

**Example** – understanding how Biblical truths are applied differently with various spheres of authority:

Individual:

Romans 12:19 *Do not take revenge,* my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Biblical View of Juristiction and Authority

Socialist View of Juristiction and Authority

Government:

Romans 13:4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, *agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer*

**Government’s Role according to the Bible:**

Worksheet: Label the columns below with the proper spheres of authority (Church, Family, Government, Individual/Voluntary Organization, Business) and complete the blank sections

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Situation | Family | Indiv/VO | Business | GovernmentSpheres of Influence/Authority | Church |
| People live in poverty | Teach children to care for others (Proverbs 22:6) | (Acts 6:2) | Create opportunities for people to labor for their own food (Leviticus 19:10, 2 Thessalonians 3:10) |  (2 Corinthians 3:17) | Teach adults and hold them accountable to serving one another (Luke 3:10) |
| People steal from each other | Administer discipline early in life (Proverbs 13:24) |  (Ecclesiastes 4:12) | Create opportunities for gain through labor (1Corinthians 9:9-10, Ephesians 4:8) |  (Romans 13:4) | Point people to Christ for forgiveness & teach biblical concept of work (Matthew 18:15-17) |
| Elderly need care |  (1 Tim 5:8) | Non-profit programs to support those who have no children |  | Regulatory |  (1 Timothy 5:1-25) |
| Children need education | (Prov 1:8-9) | Families support Christian Education | Hire good students, have internship programs, donate supplies, equipment |  |  |
| Traffic problems | Provide good examples at home (Ephesians 6:4) |  | Driving schools, Road maintenance |  |  (1 Peter 2:13-17) |
| Declining populations | Procreation (Genesis 1:28) | Informational campaigns |  | Family tax credits | Family planning, marriage counseling |
| Potential Terrorist Attacks | (Ephesians 5:25) | Bring attention to the problem |  |  (Obadiah 1:11) | Declare His Glory among the nations (Ps 96:3)  |

