

# Law, Grace, and Citizenship

## Labor Day Conference—2012

### Session #7 (3 Sep): "Christian Cultural Influence--Part 2"

#### I. REVIEW & TRANSITION

#### II. GRAND STRATEGY OF THE CHURCH AGE

Invisible world where the dead in Christ are today and where the *doxological* conflict wages "up there" and the visible world of the Church in *redemptive* conflict "down here."

*God's grand strategy controls synchronized maneuvers encompassing both simultaneously.*

#### **Indirect strategy**

"Effective results in war have rarely been attained unless the approach has had such indirectness as to ensure the opponent's unreadiness to meet it. The indirectness has usually been physical, and always psychological. In strategy, the longest way round is often the shortest way home. . . . The aim is to weaken resistance before attempting to overcome it; and the effect is best attained by drawing the other party out of his defences."<sup>1</sup>

Model case: Jesus followed (**Phil 2:5-8**). Satan misintepreded; initiated attack to exploit what he thought was a weakness. Judas to have Jesus executed and out of the way BUT ended in the unraveling of his claim upon mankind (e.g., **Matt 26:23; John 16:11**).

Church case: **Rev 5:9-10**

Apparent weakness: **1 Corinthians 2; 1 Pet 3:15-16**; lures unbelievers and evil principalities and powers into action

Church History: "doctrine development cycle"

Goal: complete the Body \_[quantitatively]\_ and \_[qualitatively]\_ so Christ can break the seals

*Quantitatively--* involves missionary activity by different parts of the body to acquire representation of all people groups;

*Qualitatively--*

- victory over antichrist teachers within local churches (**1 John 2:19**)
- faithfulness to death (martyrdom) (**Rev 2:10**)
- accumulated victories by *particular* believers *in particular* circumstances at *particular* times that show awareness and appreciation of the Word of God (**Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-19**)
- Bema seat purging of work that can't stand up to forensic challenge (**1 Cor 3:12-15**)

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<sup>1</sup> B. H. Liddell Hart, *Strategy*, 2nd ed., (New York: Frederick A. Praeger Publishers, 1967) 25,18.

Jesus as Head and believers as Body ready to rule the real millennial kingdom that will produce far more than the Progressive secularized millennial vision

OT picture of this indirect strategy: (1 Sam 16-2 Sam 2)

### III. TACTICS OF THE CHURCH AGE

First priority:

Second priority:

Third priority:

Defense tactics: Focus on the Family Action, American Family Association and Christian legal organizations like Alliance Defense Fund, Liberty Counsel.

**Acts 5:29**

**Acts 16:16-39**

**Acts 22-25.**

**Philemon**

Peter and Paul wrote the two key NT passages on obeying civil authority (**Rom 13:1-6; 1 Pet 2:13-17**) ==> Civil authorities are to be disobeyed when they command us to sin. In Onesimus' case Roman law violated Mosaic case-law **Deut 23:15-16.**

Individual armed self-defense: **Luke 22:36**

PRINCIPLE: Not looking for a fight! Jesus minimizes a government policy ( <b>Matt 17:24-27</b> ). Not trying to overthrow civil government! But when in the course of godly living, criminals or civil government officials act like criminals, a calm, well-thought out, prayed-about resistance is in order.
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Offense tactics: Acting as "salt and light" in a pluralistic, pagan society (**Jer 29:7** is the traditional Jewish position on charitable contributions to pagan cities)

*Policy proposals:* true social welfare that conforms to God's design is socially and economically beneficial.

Appeal methodology: **Daniel 1** "it works better"]; can perhaps lead to further debate on why it works better

### IV. CONCLUSION

LAW, GRACE, AND CITIZENSHIP

Framework approach (brochures): 10 major concepts

Reason needs concepts in order to work.

Limited experience needs God's infinite perspective in order to make major decisions

After Babel, Noahic civilization inevitably deteriorates unless there is salt and light

LAW gives the [content] of social justice as it applied to the theocracy of Israel-  
-it contains universal moral principles that have to be carefully extracted from it.

GRACE is the only way to [fulfill] ALL of justice including the invisible forensic argument in heaven and the gospel is the only solution

CITIZENSHIP in this age is a responsibility of all believers to be salt and light realizing that there are upper and lower limits