

Did God ever command order in church, life, society or the universe?

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Introduction

In preparation for the visit of his holiness Pope Tawadros II, all churches tried hard to keep things in order for the safety of our pope and our people. Unfortunately, our church faced many hurdles in an effort to keep things in order. Some people objected to order in the church wanting to do things their way, not the church way.

Therefore, I wrote this article to prove to everyone that our God is the God of order, not confusion. His commandments of order do not only apply to our church, but also to our life, our society and the whole universe from the first day of creation.

As I always say and do, let's use our living gospel, the Word of God, to see if this is true or not.

I. God's Commandments of Order in the Church

Let us start by the teaching of St. Paul where he said:

✠ “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Here, he is talking to the church about how they were misusing the spiritual gifts that they had received. When God is the center of the church, there is peace and order within the church. When we follow the teaching of the church, we follow the teaching of God; simply because there is nothing else the church wants from its people other than love and peace.

Unfortunately, some people try to force their own agenda on the church forgetting that when our personal agendas overtake God's agenda, the church will be in turmoil. If our focus is not on God and His mission, we will fight of silly things like who come to church, our people or visitors to take the place of church people during his holiness visit.

We can even fight for carpet color or wall color or parking spaces. We will fight over where to hang a picture while people are dying and going to hell and we will not care as long as we get to put the picture where we want it.

When we put God in the center of the church, God will bring order and peace to the church and He will reap His blessings upon it. Therefore, St. Paul told us:

✠ “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Fighting and arguing to force our own agenda and to prove the church wrong will please no one other than the devil who wishes to destroy the church of God and devour its people, as our fathers the apostles warned us:

✠ “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8)

✠ “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:16)

St. Paul also warned against these personal agendas and selfish ambitions that could lead to contentions and divisions in the church, saying:

✠ “For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults” (2 Corinthians 12:20)

Why all these warnings from the apostles? Simple because personal agenda can bring judgment to us; as St. Paul warned:

✠ “Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:2)

So, what shall we do to bring back peace and order?

✠ “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us” (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

✠ “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you” (2 Thessalonians 3:7)

✠ “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme” (1 Peter 2:13)

✠ “For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ” (Colossians 2:5)

II. God’s Commandments of Order in Your Life

Peace is the absence of chaos and disorder. When we give our lives over to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are then at peace with God. As we turn over areas of our lives to God, we will experience order, peace and blessings from God; as St. Paul said:

✠ “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1)

So, peace is something we should experience always, not just when we do not have any problems. It is the foundation of our daily life with God, in dealing with people, in treaties between countries, and in greeting one another like what St. Paul used to say in his epistles, e.g.:

✠ “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7)

✠ “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:2-3)

Think of how many people are living in chaos because they have ignored God and His calling. Think about how many people are living in chaos because we have not taken the Gospel

message to them in love. God sent His Only-Begotten Son to die for us, He does not want us to live in chaos. The Lord Jesus Christ will bring peace in our lives.

Our lives will have an ultimate purpose and direction if we humbly live in order and follow the Lord and His teachings. How can we do that? St. Paul joyful says that God has the answer for you God wants to bring order and peace into your life:

✠ “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen” (Romans 16:19-20)

✠ “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6,7)

St. Paul is telling the people that because of their love and obedience to the Lord that God was not going to let Satan wreak havoc in their lives.

Why did God do all of this? Because we, by our own free will, separated ourselves from God and started enmity with Him? Our good loving God took it onto Himself to reconcile us to Him through His only begotten Son:

✠ “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

✠ “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10)

✠ “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled” (Colossians 1:21)

Also, St. Paul says about our Lord Jesus Christ:

✠ “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near” (Ephesians 2:14-17)

We must understand that through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, we were reconciled with God and through our faith in Him, we always have peace with Him:

✠ “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1)

So, now after what the Lord have done for us, we must acknowledge the fact that there is no peace for anyone who does not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior and as such we can bring forth the fruits the Holy Spirit:

✠ “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23)

III. God's Commandments of Order in Society

In the book of Jeremiah, God had instructed the prophet to preach to the people about what would happen to them unless they repent and return the Lord to first place in their lives and in their society.

The nation of Israel divided in 931 BC into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). The Northern Kingdom was so wicked that the Lord allowed the Assyrians to come in 722 BC to destroy the nation.

Judah saw this happen, but they continued to rebel against God. Jeremiah warned them saying,

✠ “I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light” (Jeremiah 4:23)

This is the same phrase that was used in the Book of Genesis:

✠ “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2)

The prophet was telling them that the land and their nation would go back to what it was before (without form, void, no light). This means that their land would be destroyed and would end up in utter chaos unless they repent. The nation was pushing God out of the picture and Jeremiah was trying to warn them of the consequences of doing that.

In chapter five of the book, Jeremiah lists six reasons why God was going to judge them. Listen to these with me and see if any of them sound familiar

1. Moral corruption:

✠ “Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; see now and know; and seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her. Though they say, ‘As the Lord lives,’ surely they swear falsely. O Lord, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return. Therefore I said, ‘Surely these are poor. They are foolish; for they do not know the way of the Lord, the judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, for they have known the way of the Lord, the judgment of their God.’ But these have altogether broken the yoke and burst the bonds. Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, a wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; a leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, because their transgressions are many; their backslidings have increased” (Jeremiah 5:1-6)

2. Sexual immorality:

God provided for them, yet they flocked to the temple harlot to participate in the fertility rites of Baal. Their worship spilled over in to all areas of their life.

‡ “How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me and sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots’ houses. They were like well-fed lusty stallions; every one neighed after his neighbor’s wife. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord. And shall I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?” (Jeremiah 5:7-9)

3. Unbelief:

They did not believe that God would do what He said He would.

‡ “Go up on her walls and destroy, but do not make a complete end. Take away her branches, for they are not the Lord’s. For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with Me,’ says the Lord. They have lied about the Lord, and said, ‘It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine. And the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them.’ Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: ‘Because you speak this word, behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them. Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel,’ says the Lord. ‘It is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say. Their quiver is like an open tomb; they are all mighty men. And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; they shall destroy your fortified cities, in which you trust, with the sword. ‘Nevertheless in those days,’ says the Lord, ‘I will not make a complete end of you’” (Jeremiah 5:10-18)

4. Religious apostasy:

God said they would be destroyed because of their worship of false gods.

‡ “And it will be when you say, ‘Why does the Lord our God do all these things to us?’ then you shall answer them, ‘Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.’ ‘Declare this in the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah, saying, ‘Hear this now, O foolish people, without understanding, who have eyes and see not, and who have ears and hear not: Do you not fear Me?’ says the Lord. ‘Will you not tremble at My presence, who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they have revolted and departed. They do not say in their heart, ‘Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest’” (Jeremiah 5:19-24)

5. Social injustice:

The rich were cheating the poor. Their houses were full of ill-gotten gain.

‡ “Your iniquities have turned these things away, and your sins have withheld good from you. ‘For among My people are found wicked men; they lie in wait as one who sets snares; they set a trap; they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit. Therefore, they have become great and grown rich. They have grown fat, they

are sleek; yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; they do not plead the cause, the cause of the fatherless; yet they prosper, and the right of the needy they do not defend. Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the Lord. ‘Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’” (Jeremiah 5:25-29)

6. Corrupt leaders:

The leaders of the nation, Kings, prophets, and priests were leading the people down the wrong path.

✠ “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

In America, starting in the early 1960’s, there has been an effort to remove God from our society. Since 1963 listen to just a couple of these social indicators:

1. There has been increase in unwed pregnancy for girls 15-19 every year from 1963 until 1993.
2. For girls 10-14 the rate has increased by 553% since 1963.
3. Unmarried couples living together are up 536%. The numbers were stable until 1963.
4. Violent crimes have surpassed population growth by 794% causing the USA to become the world’s leader in violent crimes.

What happened in 1963 to change things? The Supreme Court accepted a case Stone vs. Graham from Kentucky. A copy of the Ten Commandments was hanging on the hallways of the school. The court said this was a passive display, but they added: “If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the commandments... This is not... a permissible... objective”.

What they are saying is that you can’t let kids see the Ten Commandments because if they do, they might obey them- things like “don’t steal”, don’t kill... and that would be unconstitutional.

IV. God’s Commandments of Order in the Universe

The Bible tells us:

- ✠ “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)
- ✠ “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2)

In Verse 1 above, the Bible says that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, while in Verse 2, it explains that “the earth was without form and void”. In the original text, the terms “without form and void” were meant to convey the idea of confusion and disorder.

God created the earth to be inhabited, but for a brief time before He created plants, animals, man, light and so forth, the earth was void of anything. If God had just left things the way they were in Genesis 1:2, there would be no life.

The Bible also tells us:

✠ “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:3-4)

Here we see that God set the universe in order. Many people think that the universe happened by accident. Think about a couple of things with me.

Here are some Facts to consider (Reference: “Christianity Stands True”, Lynn Gardner, College Press, 1994):

- The universe is set up in an orderly manner. When was the last time that one of our planets ran into another one? There are billions of stars and planets in the universe, yet they are all in orderly orbits. What are the odds?
- The movement of the planets of our solar system is so precise; scientists can calculate exactly where a planet will be hundreds of years in advance.
- The Naval Observatory, United States’ timekeeper makes continual observation of the stars and adjusts its master clock accordingly.
- We know when the comets are going to pass by us again.
- The Earth rotates on its axis at a tilt of 23 degrees, which allows for a greater surface of the earth to be tilled and makes possible the seasons.
- The Earth rotates at 1000 miles per hour. If it rotated at only 100 miles per hour, the days and nights would be ten times longer. The summer sun would burn all vegetation and the winter’s night would be incredibly cold.
- The earth is the right distance from the right-sized sun for life as experienced on earth.
- If the earth were farther away from the sun, the climate would be too cold. If it were closer, it would be too hot. If the sun were smaller or larger, we would either freeze or roast.
- Did you know that on the moon, in one lunar day (which is 15 earth days) the temperature varies from a high of 214 degrees above zero to 243 degrees below zero.
- The earth is the right distance from the right-sized moon for life as we know it.
- The ratio of the size of the moon to the earth is 10 times greater than for any other planet’s satellite in the solar system.
- If the moon were 100 times smaller, an average moon size, its brightness would be reduced by 20 times and its influence on earth would be greatly changed.
- The moon is on average, 240,000 miles from earth. The gravitational pull from the moon causes the ocean tides that cleanse our shorelines and clean out the shipping channels. If the moon were only 50,000 from earth the gravitational pull from the moon would be so great that the ocean tides would completely submerge the surface of the earth twice per day. A smaller or larger moon would greatly increase or decrease the tides.
- The layer of gases that surround the earth also shows a designer and a sense of order. The atmosphere contains 21% oxygen. If it had 50% or more, any flash of lightening would ignite a forest into fire. If we had less than 10% oxygen, we would not have enough for fire.
- The fact that water expands when it freezes is also by design. Water expands by 9% when it freezes. Most other things contract and get heavier when they freeze. Water freezes and

ice floats. This puts a protective layer on the tops ponds and lakes. If the ice sank to the bottom, all of the life on the pond of lake would freeze and die. This fact that we have water is important also.

- And the list goes on and on.

St. Paul says,

- ✠ “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20)

This means that God has made Himself visible to all through the design and order of creation. Similarly, David the prophet says,

- ✠ “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1)

The Bible also tells us about how God brought order to the universe, and that without Him; there would be no order;

- ✠ “He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger. He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble. He commands the sun, and it does not rise. He seals off the stars. He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea. He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south. He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number” (Job 9:5-10)

Conclusion

The Lord Jesus said:

- ✠ “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:9-10).

Just think what would happen if God were to remove His hand from the universe? Look at what is happening in a society that is trying to distance itself from God. As things get worse, we wait to go to God after the shooting happen; we wait to get God involved with our kids until they go to prison, etc.

God loves you, you need to know that. God wants to come into your life and He wants to give you eternal life. You will only find that through the Lord Jesus Christ, following His commandments and living in peace and order and trusting His promise:

- ✠ “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)