



Sunday January 14, 2018
Ordering Your World

Today - a simple motivational message from God's Word

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

God invites us to honor and glorify Him all activities of life - food, rest, work, etc.

Now, God is a God of order as we see in creation.

In its original state or design, we see order in all of creation.

The sun rises in the East. The earth rotates on its axis at a constant rate. Revolves around the sun...and more than a million other things in creation...that display order.

Oxford Dictionary

Order [noun] *The arrangement or disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a particular sequence, pattern, or method.*

A state in which everything is in its correct or appropriate place.

Synonyms : sequence, arrangement, organization, structure, system

So when we are talking "Ordering our world" we are referring to having things in our life in proper balance, in proper sequence, in proper combination. This would require some amount of organization, structure and system in place to establish order in our world.

God Calls Us To Order Our Lives And Things We Do

In the Old Testament, God gave elaborate instructions and details in what order things have to be done in the Tabernacle. Similarly, when the people marched during their journey to the Promised Land, God wanted the tribes to march in a specific order.

In the New Testament we see that God, through the apostle Paul, want things in order, when people come together in worship:

1 Corinthians 14:33,40

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Generally speaking, to affect human behavior, there is the 80-20 principle

80% has to do with WHY. 20% has to do with HOW.

If we get the WHY (the motivation, the reason), then we are 80% through in affecting behavior.



Why Order Our World?

1, helps maintain peace (sanity) - take a simple example. Your house keys or car keys. If you just leave it randomly anywhere at home, each time you want to get your keys, you have to remember where you left them last, and often you will end up spending 10minutes searching for your keys. On the other hand, if you always leave your keys in one specific place at home, each time you want your keys, you go and pick them up from that place.

2, helps optimize performance

3, helps improve efficiency

4, helps make progress

How Do We Order Our World?

To establish order in our world we need Structure and Controls:

STRUCTURE (daily or weekly routine, schedule, calendar, planning)

CONTROLS (priorities, values, limits, choices)

Four Areas For Consideration : Ordering Your World

We want to briefly touch on four areas that we really need to consider 'ordering' : Time, Relationships, Finances, Growth

#1, TIME

what consumes our TIME?

Our **commitments** and **people**.

Here are a few insights from Scripture in relation to TIME:

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

(also Colossians 4:5)

vs 15 : circumspectly = exactly, carefully, accurately

look how exactly ye walk

look carefully how ye walk

vs 16: redeeming = buy back

buying up every opportunity

it comes at a price - being alert, conscientious, avoiding laziness, procrastination, etc.

To walk circumspectly and to redeem the time - here are the CONTROLS - knowing the will of the Lord

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:



Learn to do things at their proper time.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-6

5 He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment.

6 Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-6 (Contemporary English Version)

5 If you obey the king, you will stay out of trouble..

6 Life is hard, but there is a time and a place for everything, So be smart and learn what to do and when to do it

Also understand the season of life you are in, and prepare for the next:

1 Chronicles 12:32

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

So order your TIME.

Put STRUCTURE and CONTROLS in place on your COMMITMENTS and PEOPLE to whom you give your TIME to.

#2, RELATIONSHIPS

People influence us. The right kind of people sharpen us. Bad company weakens us.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 22:24-25

24 Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go,

25 Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

We need people who encourage us, challenge us, inspire us, have fun with.

We need to be careful of people who drain us, weaken us, discourage us. Don't be afraid to say 'no' to such people. Don't be afraid to keep a healthy distance, or to have guard against their negative influence.

We also need people whom we serve, we invest in, we bless. Choose whom you are going to serve and how you are going to do this. You cannot solve every body's problems.

Put STRUCTURE and CONTROLS in place on your RELATIONSHIPS.



#3, FINANCES

Are your finances in order..or is there some order to how you manage your finances?

God is interested in how we handle our finances.

The Bible has a lot to say about money and how God wants us to use it.

Consider the following words spoken by the Lord Jesus in relation to stewardship of money:

Luke 16:10-12

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Handle small amounts well.

Your faithful handling of money (unrighteous mammon) qualifies you to handle spiritual matters (true riches) as well. Remember it is not the amount, but the faithfulness, that qualifies you.

Handle other people's money faithfully (on your job, at your workplace, etc.).

Put STRUCTURE and CONTROLS in place on your FINANCES.

Budget. Save. Give. Invest.

#4, GROWTH

spiritual, personal, vocational/professional

We must keep growing in our spiritual lives, personal and vocational/professional lives.

2 Peter 3:17-18

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Schedule time to grow spiritually and increase in spiritual strength, understanding and maturity.

Keep growing personally and professionally.

Read. Learn. Develop new skills. Do courses.

Put STRUCTURE and CONTROLS in place to ensure your GROWTH in all areas.



STRUCTURE - work this into your daily or weekly routine. Schedule time in your calendar for growth.

CONTROLS - establish priorities and avoid things that will prevent you from making efforts towards GROWTH (excuses, distractions, laziness) .

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

God invites us to honor and glorify Him all activities of life - food, rest, work, etc.

You are actually honoring God by stewarding all that He has given you: TIME, RELATIONSHIPS, FINANCES, GROWTH.

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday January 14, 2018
Ordering Your World

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: *Ephesians 5:15-17; Ecclesiastes 8:5-6; 1 Corinthians 10:31*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Take some time to discuss the WHY and HOW of ordering our world and keeping things in life in order.

#2, We considered four areas to establish order: Time, Relationships, Finances, Growth. (A) Reflect on how things are currently in your life in these four areas. Is there room for improvement? (B) What are some actions you can take, to make required improvements?

#3, How is God honored and glorified, when we order our world?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential).



Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.