



GLC Weekly

(21 February 2024)

Foundations for Life #5:

5 Spheres of Authority & Responsibility

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Our nations are in the greatest crises of our lifetimes with rejection of personal responsibility and unprecedented, even militant, efforts to destroy individuals, marriage, family, the church, business, private property ownership, etc. Our governments are corrupting themselves, trampling over, and destroying everything we've invested generations to build. We need to recover a correct understanding of the authority and limits of civil government power, and restore respect for the authority and responsibility God has given in each sphere of authority.

Individual	Family	Church	Business/Private	Civil Government
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Continuing with Foundations for Life, this week we cover “5 Spheres of Authority & Responsibility.” The late Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer helped me understand that there are 5 God-given spheres of authority and responsibility in society: individual, family, church, business and private sector, and civil government. When the authority and responsibility are honored and respected in each sphere, there is freedom with responsibility, peace and good order, things go well, and

everyone can flourish. Wherever a sphere is violated, problems occur.

The 5 Spheres of Authority & Responsibility:

1. **Individual:** this begins with self-government, and includes accepting personal responsibility. Neglecting or rejecting personal responsibility is the first step in decline, and affects the other spheres.
2. **Family:** this begins with a marriage covenant between one man and one woman, and grows with the children God gives them by birth or adoption. Marriage is not the union of two people of the same sex, and family is not a group of unrelated individuals.
3. **Church:** the Head of the Church is Jesus Christ, and it is “the pillar and support of the truth” (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:12; 1 Timothy 3:15). The Church is the primary hope and influence of whether truth, liberty, righteousness and justice are upheld in a culture.
4. **Business & Private Sector:** The authority and responsibility to work, create a business or organization, and make a living through one’s labor goes all the way back to Genesis (1:26; 2:15). Whoever does their work “heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,” with integrity, faithfulness and service, will be rewarded by the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24).
5. **Civil Government** is necessary because of the fallen, sinful nature of mankind. Good laws, enforcement, and justice are essential to a peaceful and safe society. But civil government

has no legitimate authority in such areas as family, church, education, medicine, health, etc. – unless there is a crime. And when it intrudes into these areas, it limits liberty, imposes excessive controls, costs escalate, and a huge bureaucracy is developed.

Exercises:

1. May I suggest you develop an exercise when reading the Bible? When a command or instruction is given, think about these 5 spheres. To whom is the command given, and to whom does it apply? Begin to think about what areas of authority and responsibility are in each sphere. Then think about your life and our society, and where have we aligned things properly, and where have we not, and what are the consequences?
2. Think about the sanctity of human life and each sphere. Can you think of one or more ways that a person in each sphere can and should protect human life?

Pray that the understanding of and respect for each of these 5 spheres of authority and responsibility will be restored; that civil government would be restrained and restored to within its God-given limits; and every person in each sphere of influence would do their part to protect the sanctity of human life.

For the LORD, the sacred gift of life, and remembrance of the babies,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*