

# Christ in the Psalms

What Ought to Be

[Phil@UsefulEngines.com](mailto:Phil@UsefulEngines.com)

<https://tinyurl.com/zadnvuca>

# Psalm 72 – A Vision of Righteous Governance

## God's expectation for leaders and governments

Psalm 72 presents an ideal picture of a king who rules with God's justice and righteousness, serving as a model for societal institutions.

Key Verses:

***Psalm 72:1-2:*** "Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice."

***Psalm 72:12:*** "For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help."

Key Themes:

- Justice and righteousness as the foundation for leadership.
- Protection and care for the vulnerable.
- A vision of peace and prosperity under God's authority.

# Psalm 82 – A Call for Justice in Leadership

## The moral responsibility of leaders to uphold God's principles

Psalm 82 focuses on God's direct challenge to those in positions of authority to act justly and defend the weak.

Key Verses:

***Psalm 82:3-4:*** "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Key Themes:

- Leaders are accountable to God for how they govern.
- Justice and care for the marginalized are central to God's design.
- A warning against corruption and neglect of duty

# Psalm 133 – Harmony in Community

## Peace results from living according to God's design

Psalm 133 celebrates unity and harmony among God's people, reflecting the ideal state of relationships within society.

### Key Verses:

***Psalm 133:1-2:*** "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe."

### Key Themes:

- Unity as a reflection of divine blessing.
- The importance of harmony in families, communities, and the church.
- A societal state where relationships reflect God's relational nature.

# Evaluating Cultural Worldviews on Social Institutions

## Worldviews often undermine God's design for social structures

**Individualism:** Prioritizing personal autonomy over communal responsibility.

**Statism:** Relying excessively on government to address societal issues, often at the expense of personal freedoms.

**Relativism:** Denying absolute truths, leading to moral ambiguity and societal instability.

---

**The Family:** Established as the foundational unit of society, the family mirrors the relational nature of the Trinity. It serves as the primary context for nurturing, teaching, and modeling God's love and truth.

**The Church:** Designed as a community of believers, the church functions to worship God, teach His Word, and uphold truth in a fallen world. It acts as the "pillar and support of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

**The State:** Instituted to maintain justice and order, the state is tasked with restraining evil and promoting good, operating under God's authority to serve the common good.

# God's Design for Social Institutions

## The biblical framework for understanding social institutions

### The Family

**Genesis 1:27-28:** *"So God created mankind in his own image... God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'"*

- The family is the first institution established by God for procreation, nurture, and stewardship.

**Ephesians 6:1-4:** *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord... Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

- Highlights the family's role in discipling children.

**Psalms 127:3-5:** *"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth."*

- Celebrates the family as a God-ordained institution for raising the next generation.

**Psalms 128:1-4:** *"Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him... Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table."*

- Highlights the blessings of a family that follows God's design.

# God's Design for Social Institutions

## The biblical framework for understanding social institutions

### The Church

**Matthew 16:18:** *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

- Jesus establishes the church as His body and community of believers.

**1 Timothy 3:15:** *"The church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."*

- Describes the church's role as the guardian of truth.

**Psalms 22:22:** *"I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you."*

- Points to the gathering of God's people as a place of worship and truth.

**Psalms 84:4:** *"Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you."*

- Emphasizes the communal worship of God in His sanctuary.

# God's Design for Social Institutions

## The biblical framework for understanding social institutions

### The State

**Romans 13:1-4:** *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities... for the one in authority is God's servant for your good."*

- Defines the role of the state as an institution ordained by God to promote justice and restrain evil.

**Micah 6:8:** *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

- A divine standard for justice applicable to governments.

**Psalms 2:10-11:** *"Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling."*

- Encourages rulers to govern under God's authority.

**Psalms 72:1-2:** *"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice."*

- Establishes a biblical standard for governance rooted in justice and righteousness.



# The Divine Imprint in Relationships

## Our relationships reflect the communal nature of the Trinity

**Genesis 1:26-27:** *"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."*

- Humans, created in God's image, are relational beings reflecting the Trinity's communal nature.

**John 17:21:** *"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."*

- Jesus prays for relational unity among His followers, mirroring divine harmony.

**Psalms 8:3-6:** *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers... what is mankind that you are mindful of them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor."*

- Reflects humanity's unique dignity as God's image-bearers.

**Psalms 133:1:** *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

- Highlights the relational harmony intended by God.

# The Impact of the Fall on Society

## Sin leads to brokenness in all social institutions

**Genesis 3:16-19:** The consequences of sin disrupt family relationships (e.g., pain in childbirth, relational strife) and society (e.g., toil and labor).

**Romans 1:21-32:** *"Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him..."*

- Describes how sin corrupts human thought, relationships, and societal institutions.

**James 4:1-2:** *"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"*

- Explains that relational strife stems from sin within individuals.

**Psalms 14:1-3:** *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good... All have turned away, all have become corrupt."*

- Acknowledges the pervasive effects of sin on humanity and society.

**Psalms 94:20-21:** *"Can a corrupt throne be allied with you—a throne that brings on misery by its decrees? The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death."*

- Critiques corrupt governments and systems resulting from the Fall.

# Restoring Society through Biblical Principles

## Institutions can reflect God's original design

**Colossians 3:18-21:** *"Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord... Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."*

- Outlines a Christ-centered approach to restoring family relationships.

**Matthew 28:19-20:** *"Go and make disciples of all nations..."*

- The church is called to teach and transform society through discipleship.

**Proverbs 29:2:** *"When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan."*

- Encourages righteous leadership and governance aligned with God's principles.

**Psalms 1:1-3:** *"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked... but whose delight is in the law of the LORD."*

- Encourages individuals to live by God's Word, the foundation for societal restoration.

**Psalms 37:3-6:** *"Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."*

- Calls believers to actively do good and trust in God for societal renewal.

**Psalms 82:3-4:** *"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy."*

- Provides guidance on how individuals and institutions can restore justice and mercy.

# Cultural Worldviews on Social Institutions

## Human ideologies distort God's design for social structures

**1 Corinthians 1:20-21:** *"Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him..."*

- Warns against adopting secular ideologies that conflict with God's truth.

**Isaiah 5:20:** *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..."*

- Critiques moral relativism and distorted cultural values.

**Colossians 2:8:** *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."*

- Exposes the dangers of ideologies that undermine biblical truth.

**Psalms 146:3-4:** *"Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing."*

- Warns against placing ultimate trust in human systems or leaders.

**Psalms 119:105:** *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."*

- Encourages using God's Word as the standard to evaluate all worldviews.

**Psalms 96:5:** *"For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens."*

- Contrasts false ideologies with the truth of God's sovereignty.

# The Centrality of Christ in Social Redemption

How can we then live? The Just shall Live by Faith.

**John 14:6:** *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* - Affirms that Christ is the ultimate source of truth and redemption.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18:** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ..."*  
- Describes Christ's role in reconciling individuals and relationships.

**Ephesians 2:14-16:** *"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility..."*  
- Demonstrates how Christ's work restores unity and peace within and across societal institutions.

**Psalms 22:27-28:** *"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations."* - Points to Christ's ultimate authority and redemptive mission.

**Psalms 110:1-2:** *"The LORD says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, 'Rule in the midst of your enemies!'"* - Foreshadows Christ's reign as the means of restoring all things.

**Psalms 103:19:** *"The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all."* - Affirms God's sovereignty over all human institutions and history

# Resources

- The Truth Project – Focus on the Family  
(<https://tinyurl.com/57ua3m5f>)
- How then should we live? – Francis Shaefer  
(<https://tinyurl.com/3fc6uzbx>)
- Good Ideas from Questionable Christians and Outright Pagans: An Introduction to Key Thinkers and Philosophies – Steve Wilkins  
(<https://a.co/d/5rr4ZoS>)