

The Objective of Evil Is to Destroy the Laws of Divine Establishment & the Four Divine Institutions; the Biblical Church is Independent of Any Hierarchy

- 10) The only defense against the “flaming arrows of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:16) is divine viewpoint, especially that of wisdom. While Lucifer fires missiles of human good that ignore the Word or denounce Christ, a believer’s inventory of wisdom is poised to counterattack with sophisticated absolutes that suppress the lie and glorify Christ.
- 11) This battle rages throughout human life. Since it is unrelenting, believers will often fail under fire, but grace provides recovery through rebound. However, prolonged involvement in human good and evil can take years to overcome and only then through consistent inculcation of the Word of God to develop or restore wisdom for application.
- 12) The environment for recovery is the order provided by the laws of divine establishment. Evil is the devil’s attempt to replace these laws with human good panaceas, a fruitless and futile effort to resolve the problems of this world apart from the grace of God.
- 13) Lucifer’s Long March is an effort to destroy the four divine institutions and the laws of divine establishment and to replace them by means anthropocentric academic speculation:

If not seduced by religion, man can be deceived by philosophical, academic criticism to dismiss the Word of God as absolute truth. When philosophical assumptions give central importance to man instead of God, academic research can amass persuasive yet fraudulent evidence against divine viewpoint. Because human rationalism and empiricism cannot prove biblical truth, the pseudointellectual rejects truth and “advances in knowledge out of bounds and does not remain on the field of play by means of the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9).¹

- 14) The result is evil which takes on many forms: altruism, humanism, philanthropy, legalism, socialism, internationalism, Fascism, pacifism, and totalitarianism.²
- 15) Evil has invaded Christendom by means of organizations outside the structure of the local church which God has ordained as the classroom for inculcation for application.

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Integrity*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 186.

² “totalitarianism: relating to a political regime based on subordination of the individual to the state and strict control of all aspects of the life and productive capacity of the nation especially by coercive measures” (*Merriam-Webster’s*, s.v.: “totalitarian.”).

- 16) The system established by Scripture is the teaching authority of the pastor-teacher to that portion of God's flock assigned to him. An organization that either does not have a pastor as its spiritual authority, or one that has a hierarchy that supersedes the authority of the local pastors, is unbiblical and therefore evil.
- 17) This means that most denominations function outside the parameters of biblical authority since their pastors do not have final authority over what is communicated to their congregations.
- 18) Grace Doctrine Church is not a member of any denomination. It is an independent Protestant church. When my daughter Shannon is asked by her friends what "independent Protestant" means, her response is, "Protestant theology but nobody can tell us what to do."
- 19) A former neighbor of mine once characterized Grace Doctrine to his son as a "do-it-yourself church," which is an excellent description of a biblically authentic church in that it is not compromised by an overruling hierarchy.
- 20) Jesus Christ will eliminate all human good and evil in His millennial kingdom. However, the Church Age is the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict in which volition is put to the ultimate test. Therefore, the Lord allows evil to run its course so that Lucifer's plan and policy can be proven a colossal failure.

Proverbs 8:13a - "Respect and reverence of the Lord is to disapprove evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way ..."