

**GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63121**

**COURAGE IN THE CONFLICT**

**Tomorrow is the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. I'd like to read to you about a great hero of World War II and his heroics on D-Day.**

**Norman Cota may have been the oldest soldier to set foot on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He was certainly the baddest. His command of shell-shocked troops through enemy fire earned him the honor of leading U.S. Army troops down the Champs Elysees in the parade celebrating the liberation of Paris.**

**He was highly decorated, remembered for his leadership, his courage, his ability to visualize a battle and his preparation of his men.**

**Norman Cota on D-Day personally led traumatized soldiers through a gap off bloody Omaha Beach. Then he topped that performance the next day.**

**Norman Cota graduated two months early from West Point in April 1917 when America entered World War I.**

**At West Point, Cota and Dwight Eisenhower became good friends playing football. Commissioned a lieutenant, Cota earned a promotion to major by war's end.**

**On D-Day he was a 51-year-old brigadier general, assistant commander of the 29<sup>th</sup> division. He was also one of the highest-ranking officers on Omaha Beach that day and possibly the oldest person.**

**On Omaha Beach Cota had correctly warned his men of the terrible confusion they'd encounter that day. Troops landed in the wrong**

places and the German defenses were stronger than anticipated. The Allies couldn't get a foothold on the beach under intense enemy fire and around obstacles and mines. About one hour after the invasion started, Norman Cota rode a landing craft into a crossfire of bullets, artillery and mortars.

He immediately set to making order out of chaos, setting up a command post on the beach. Two of his commanding officers were killed within feet of him.

Then he strode upright across the beach toward a group of soldiers pinned down by enemy fire next to a sand dune. It was then that he may have uttered his most famous words:

**"Gentlemen, we are being killed on the beaches. Let us go inland and be killed.**

The Germans had put up wire fences to obstruct the Allies' path off the beach. A soldier placed a Bangalore torpedo – a tube filled with high explosives – under one fence and blew it away. The first soldier through the breach was killed by sniper fire. The men following him froze.

Cota saw what happened and raced into the breach. He led the surviving soldiers through the gap in the fence and up a steep bluff to overtake a German gun embankment. At one point he got ahead of his men and stood waiting for them, twirling his .45 on his finger.

Opening the gap allowed men and equipment to be moved off the beach to safer places inland. Norman Cota earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his leadership that day.

The next day the Allies tried to broaden the beachhead, fanning out in vulnerable spots. The Germans continued their fierce defense. Many

fired on the Allies from behind stone walls and from within stone barns and farmhouses.

Cota came upon a group of infantry pinned down by some Germans in a farmhouse.

General Cota asked the captain in command why his men weren't trying to take the house. "Sir, the German's are in there, shooting at us," the captain said. "Well, I'll tell you what, Captain," said Cota, unbuckling two grenades from his jacket. "You and your men start shooting at them I'll take a squad of men and you and your men watch carefully. I'll show you how to take a house with Germans in it." Cota tried to get as close as possible to the house by leading his squad around a hedge. Then he suddenly shouted a war whoop and ran forward. His men followed, yelling as well. Some of them tossed grenades into the windows while Cota and another soldier kicked in the front door. They threw a couple of grenades inside, waited for them to blow up and then raced into the house. The Germans who survived the explosions ran for their lives out the back door.

"Cota returned to the captain. "you've seen how to take a house," said the general, still out of breath. "Do you understand? Do you know how to do it now?" "Yes, sir." Well, I won't be around to do it for you again, "Cota said. "I can't do it for everybody."

Before Norman Cota died on October 4, 1971, he got to see himself played by Robert Mitchum in the film, [The Longest Day](#).

The story of General Norman Cota is a wonderful example of the heroes who have served in the military in the many conflicts against the enemies of the United States throughout history.

General Cota is a hero and he exercised great courage in the conflict – World War II. There are many other individuals who have shown great courage in the face of the enemy. Continuing to move forward with courage and confidence without looking to their right or left and

sometimes going it alone. They have all done great things in battle so that we may stand here today and teach God's word.

**But there is an unseen battle going on which is the greatest battlefield ever and as believers in Jesus Christ you are soldiers for Christ, we are in the Lord's army, and we are at war every day from the day we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior until the day He calls us home to be with him for all eternity.**

**Our conflict is the "Angelic Conflict". We must have the courage to continue our advance in spite of Christian persecution, despite family and friends going down the "my way highway" or government regulations and that includes our changing national zeitgeist.**

**We are in a war but it's not a war against the government or against the Democrats, liberals or progressives. Ours is a spiritual war and we must continue the fight even when it seems like we're losing.**

**The contest we are engaged in includes a struggle between two adversaries, whose goals are to acquire the political power to determine how the nation is to be governed.**

**Colonel Thieme, Jr. writes, "From the moment of birth, every person, regardless of age or gender, regardless of status in life, is in the midst of the great war. A ceaseless war! No man knows exactly when it began, and no man can end it. The resolution will never be attained during human history. The antagonists are irreconcilable, the conflagration, inescapable.**

**The angelic conflict is not a world war. This is a war beyond the world. Yet for all of its infinite size and scope, the key combatants are unseen, although very real. This horrendous fight pits Satan, as the god of this world, against the God of all creation. At the same time man has a part to play – a huge part. Even though on his own man cannot bring the War to an end, he was created to resolve the conflict. Yes! God created man to conclusively settle this massive spiritual conflict. More importantly, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have an indispensable role as His soldiers. Throughout human history Satan and his angels will mightily struggle to achieve victory, but the outcome of their operations is not in the balance. Ultimately God will**

**win even though Satan will appear to have some success along the way. (Angelic Conflict, Introduction)**

**As Christians and patriots, we don't like what's happening to our country and our human nature says, "Let's do something". "Let's stop this destruction of our country" but I want to remind you of a few things.**

**We're going to start with a brief look at "Divine Establishment" specifically Divine Institution #4 but first let's set things up.**

**We learn from history what happens when governments are overthrown. Just look at the oppression of the czars of Russia when they were replaced by the murdering oppressive communists.**

**Tear down one government what do you get? Worse!**

**The government of France after the revolution was replaced with The Reign of Terror, street rabble who guillotined everyone they didn't like. It was a chance for paybacks for everyone and that opened the door for Napoleon and 20 years of warfare which bled France dry. You remove one governmental authority what do you get? Worse!**

**PRINCIPLE: Revolution may remove who is bad, but it replaces it with what is worse.**

**Mao Zedong replaced corruption in China with 50 years of a degenerate reign of terror.**

**Adolf Hitler replaced the inept corrupt Weimar Republic, and he horribly abused his power and the whole nation fell into a Götterdämmerung.**

**That was God's justice in action and the provision of the survival of His people in that case – the Jew's.**

**Revolution is not where you want to go. When leaders abuse their authority, it contradicts divine intent of government under the 4<sup>th</sup> Divine Institution.**

Hence it denies and it subverts the very source of the government which was God, but human arrogance and rejection of authority always leads to degeneration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Divine Institution.

That's where arrogance takes it and that is the history in this country of the radical 1960's. Don't ever think the 60's were a glammers time of burgeoning freedom it was exactly the opposite because it was anti-authority and we're still on that road today. We still haven't recovered from that period of anti-authority and degeneration.

**PRINCIPLE: Government authority does not derive its power from the people. According to Romans 13:1 it comes from God.**

**Romans 13:1: "Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."**

The foundation of the Laws of Divine Establishment are the Four Divine Institutions which have historically been under assault since Eden: (1) the Free Will of the individual and submission to the Law of Liberty and the Law of Freedom, (2) Marriage between one man and one woman in the private domain of the home, (3) the Family made up of one or more children under parental authority, and (4) the Government to which these individuals are protected by local and state police and nationally by the military.

The laws of divine establishments are very important. They are principles ordained by God and they're done so in the scriptures. They are ordained by God for the morality, for the survival, for the stability, for the protection, and the perpetuation of the human race during human history.

These divine establishment principles are certainly reflected in the United States legal code. Divine establishments principles were written into the constitution and the Bill of Rights by the framers, and it has worked admirably as it always does because it is from God.

Those laws are Biblically based, and they have benefit for believers and unbelievers alike. So, the laws of divine establishment are not

**just for Christians. They are for all citizens in a nation and the benefit is for good and fair governance.**

**This is the underlying premise of the 4<sup>th</sup> Divine Institution – Nationalism! So, let's get a few points on Divine Institution #4 – Nationalism:**

- 1. The justice and the sovereignty of God towards the human race is the source of government authority.**
- 2. God uses human government to wield the necessary authority as a buffer against satanic authority.**
- 3. Anti-authority thinking is anti-God.**
- 4. What God has ordained, the believer must not contradict or oppose.**
- 5. Divinely ordained government provides a nation with stability and protection.**
- 6. God's justice will prevail even though government may abuse power. Remember this principle: **God's justice never fails!****
- 7. All rulers at all levels of power are responsible to God and His justice will handle it!**
- 8. God does not ever sponsor for us to tear down His divine institutions.**
- 9. Yet God may permit revolution as punishment for abuse of power. That punishment may be directed toward a degenerate nation and a whole nation will be affected. Christians included. Everyone gets a bad deal. The whole nation is affected.**

**God will not be mocked by immoral and perverse human authority and evil government rulers. Because that's what happens when authority is abused. God is mocked!!**

You're probably asking yourselves, "How can he say this"? It's because human authority is ordained by God and rulers are ordained by God but when those rulers abuse that authority, they are evil, and they mock the divine institutions.

**Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap."**

Let's get a few more points:

1. Remember there is no freedom without authority and freedom and authority must co-exist.
2. What is freedom? The right of privacy, the right of self-determination, the right to hold your own opinions, the sacredness of property and life and to evangelize and worship God.
3. In spite of the form of government, legitimate or illegitimate, authority orientated or tyrannical, Christian spiritual growth and obedience to the existing form of government contributes to the preservation of civil freedom and order and preservation of a client nation.

**PRINCIPLE: The Christian carries out the will of God for his life no matter what. That's the priority. The state may kill you, but your priority is to fulfill the plan of God for your life.**

Remember we must always respect duly elected government even when it's tyrannical. Why? Because God commands us too. Also, you can never forget this is not our home.

**Hebrews 13:14: "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come."**

We serve a risen Savior, and He has overcome the world.

**John 16:33: "These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."**



**We must always respect the office of authority, but you can always object to the policy and bad government, but you never have the authority to overthrow duly elected authority.**

**Nor will God be mocked by the alternative revolutionary anti-authority machinations of revolutionaries. That's also mocking God because it's anti-authority.**

**When anti-authority people or abusive government challenge God's delegation of authority God will tear it down. His justice takes over.**

**First, I told you the institution of government, is divinely ordained and should not ever be torn down. Now I'm telling you when government is abused God will tear it down. You don't have to worry about it. God's justice is in operation.**

**Authority orientation towards the 4<sup>th</sup> Divine Institution is the only way to think. The illegitimate use of authority becomes evident in the erroneous seizure of power, the rise of dictators and tyranny throughout history.**

**Power lust is one of the motivating factors in arrogance in government and the source of rejection of the divine institutions and abuses in government.**

**Even in abuse the principle of authority in government always remain in effect.**

**We now understand our obligation under and to Divine Institution #4 – Nationalism.**

**Now if we must accept the leadership in our country, our state, even if they're idiots. We can't overthrow them, we shouldn't be out protesting, so is our only option standing by and watching our country be destroyed?**

**Well, there is something we can do...we need to do our duty by taking in Bible Doctrine every day and become a good witness for the prosecution and good soldiers for Christ.**

**So, you say I do take in the Word of God every day. Do you sit under a qualified pastor, or do you read your Bible or do a 10-minute devotion every morning?**

**If you are doing your duty growing to spiritual maturity what are our weapons so we can effectively combat the enemy and be a good soldier for Christ? How do we handle all of this? Not with M-4's or F-35's or Javelin Missiles but with the Word of God! It's our weapon our "Operation Orders" come from it.**

**We don't have time to cover all of the weapons we have at our disposal but let's get a few of them on the table for a refresher course**

**We won't cover the 10 Problem Solving Devices, but we'll cover a couple of our other weapons we have at our disposal.**

**Let's start with something our pastor has taught us over and over...impersonal love.**

**Matthew 22:37-39: "And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

**So personal love for God is the greatest commandment. You must have personal love for God first, but the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself".**

**"Neighbor" is "πλησίον" – "plesion" in the Greek and it means "neighbor" or "any other person irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we come in contact with".**

- 1. The object of impersonal love can be known or unknown, friend or enemy, attractive or repulsive, honorable or dishonorable. Good or evil, believer or unbeliever. All types of people.**
- 2. Impersonal love is unconditional with regards to its object. There are no conditions with impersonal love and no merit is assigned to the object of love by the subject.**

3. Impersonal love is the greatest type of love in human relationships, and it also applies to those we love personally. Impersonal love across the board for all neighbors including those we love personally. Those we know, those we barely know, those we don't know, including those we see on television and despise.
4. All the merit and integrity reside in the mature believer who has developed the spiritual skill. Impersonal love is a skill. It's developed. It's from your mind and soul and it's developed. This is a skill that is developed in order to express impersonal love.
5. So, the motivation for impersonal love is not attractiveness; it's not rapport; it's not worthiness; it's not compatibility; it's not how someone treats you. It is motivated by the believer's own virtue and integrity of the believer emanating from the mature spiritual life.
6. Impersonal love is characterized by several things: tolerance; not prejudicial; courteous; objectivity even in the face of hostility and antagonism.
7. Remember, impersonal love was a skill demonstrated by Jesus Christ toward His antagonists constantly throughout the incarnation. He set the example for all of us.

**Luke 23:34a: "But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."**

8. The defining characteristics of impersonal love is integrity of soul based on application of Bible Doctrine that takes precedent over the faults and flaws of people.
9. Regardless of the offensive personality or disagreements with the object of impersonal love or any other human weakness even a wrong done to you by that other person the second foremost commandment to love can still be fulfilled through impersonal love.

10. The virtue necessary for impersonal love is developed by spiritual growth. You are developing impersonal love every time you listen to Bible Doctrine.

Let's move on to another weapon we have for our use in the conflict and that is **"Grace"**.

The Greek word and definition for **"grace"** is **"χάρις" – "charis"**: This word occurs 156 times in the New Testament in 147 verses. It means **"favored kindness"**.

We know we have **"Saving Grace"**, and this includes **"Common Grace"** and **"Efficacious Grace"**.

**"Common Grace"** is the Holy Spirit making the Gospel understandable to the spiritually brain dead individual. Otherwise they would never be able to grasp the implications.

**"Common Grace"** is the ministry of the Holy Spirit making the Gospel understandable or applicable to the lost person.

**"Efficacious Grace"** is when the Holy Spirit makes the faith of the spiritually dead person effective for eternal salvation.

Both of these emphasizes the total helplessness of the spiritually dead person to reconcile himself to God or even think about the need to reconcile himself to God.

Thus, we conclude that the lost man can make a decision to listen to the Gospel and hopefully believe in Jesus Christ but not without the Spirit's prompting and interceding.

**Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast."**

We have **"Living Grace"**! We know **"Living Grace"** as **"Logistical Grace"**.

**"Logistical Grace"** should give you great confidence in the times in which we live. It includes several factors of divine provision.

1. Life support is provided for every church Age believer. This explains how and why we are alive every moment. The only reason we are alive is because of “**logistical grace**”. We do not earn or deserve it; there’s no work we can accomplish to keep ourselves alive.
2. Blessing is provided for every Church Age believer, both winners and losers. This dramatizes the justice of God, in that justice of God, sends life support and blessing to the indwelling righteousness of God in both winners and losers. This emphasizes grace. You are alive only because of the grace of God, not because of anything you do. Winners utilize logistical grace, losers coast on it. But never utilize it.
3. Divine provision for every Church Age believer to execute the protocol plan of God and all doctrine comes from the prepared pastor-teacher. If you have persistent positive volition, you will find doctrine and your right pastor-teacher.
4. You don’t have to sweat your logistical support. You don’t have to sweat your “beans and your bullets” or your daily existence. Your Father promised that He would meet those needs. As a believer that is advancing spiritually, God will never abandon you.
5. The divine promise of “**logistical grace**” is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8: “**And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything (logistical grace support), you may have an abundance for every good deed.**”

Luke 12:22-31: “**And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I tell you, do not worry about your life, as to what you are to eat; nor for your body, as to what you are to wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens, that they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a day to his life’s span? <sup>26</sup> Therefore if you cannot do even a very little thing, why do**

**you worry about the other things? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither labor nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>28</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup> For all these things are what the nations of the world eagerly seek; and your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup> But seek His kingdom, and these things will be provided to you.”**

In this passage, our Lord is teaching the disciples the principle of **“Logistical Grace”**. In other words, God will supply your every need.

**Luke 12:22 starts out with a command – “Do not worry”**. This is a direct prohibition against worry or having anxiety about your life or material needs.

Under the concept of **“Logistical Grace”**, the mature believer understands what our Lord is teaching the disciples. That the Heavenly Father will see to our every need. This is logistics that are arranged in heaven and provided for all who have their priorities in order.

Paul confirms this in **Philippians 4:19**: **“But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Peter 5:7**: **“Cast all your cares upon the Lord for He cares for you.”**

Our job is to fulfill **Philippians 4:6**: **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”**

Paul lived this concept daily when he said, **“Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with little, and I also know how-to live-in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.”**

**(Philippians 4:11-12)**.

**God's grace counters your failures and weaknesses. You know it so you gain humility. You know your weaknesses; you know your sin nature and God counters that with His grace in so many ways.**

**He's provided rebound for you, spiritual growth, you gain humility, and you apply that same gracious attitude to others. It's not about them no matter what. It's about you.**

**You must reflect God's grace through your life.**

**Then when our time in the conflict is over God provides for us **"Dying Grace"**.**

- 1. **"Dying Grace"** is defined as the death of the mature believer. It is the experience of physical death under special provision of grace, whereby the believer involved experiences both blessing and happiness while dying.**
- 2. Since **"dying grace"** is the extension of living grace, it will glorify God.**
- 3. Job 5:19-24 teaches that the mature believer has no fear of death. He has no fear of anything dangerous.**
- 4. **"Dying grace"** can occur regardless of the amount of pain and suffering while dying. There could be maximum pain or a minimum of pain, but in either case there is maximum happiness in the soul.**
- 5. **"Dying grace"** removes the fear of death. Psalm 23:4. According to 1 Corinthians 15:55, **"dying grace"** takes the sting out of death.**
- 6. **"Dying grace"** is the great blessing, which comes at the termination of one's life. It is still a part of living. Physical death plus the Word of God in your soul equals the greatest blessing of life.**

7. No believer dies until the Lord says it's time to come home.  
Once God calls a believer home, nothing can keep him here.

In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Paul was dying. Since he held onto maturity until death, he knew he would be rewarded in eternity.

The relationship of blessing in time with blessing in eternity is found in **“dying grace”**, Hebrews 11:13. **“Dying grace”** brings all eternal rewards into clear focus.

**“Dying grace”** is the link between temporal and eternal grace (or escrow) blessings, Romans 5:20; Hebrews 11:13. It is the bridge, which takes the believer from grace to grace.

**“Dying grace”** is the bridge between the “a fortiori” blessings of time and eternity, Romans 5:12-17.

a. This “a fortiori” rationale says that if God provides the greater in time, He cannot withhold the less in eternity. **“Dying grace”** links the two categories of blessing.

What do believers have to look forward to after death?

1. After a believer dies, we have no appointment with judgment, Romans 8:1 and Hebrews 9:27-28.
2. We are **“face to face with the Lord,”** 2 Corinthians 5:8.

Revelation 21:4 teaches there is no pain, sorrow, or embarrassment beyond the grave. No human language can describe the fantastic blessings in heaven. Heaven is more than what we enjoy in life.

We have an eternal inheritance, 1 Peter 1:4-5. We share Christ's inheritance no matter how we fail in time.

We have a new home, John 14:1-3. We all will have a perfect home in eternity.

We will receive a resurrection body, John 11:25; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:1-2; Job 19:25-26.



**We can't get to heaven in these bodies. These bodies won't work in heaven. We have to get a different body, a resurrection body.**

**Therefore, this body has to die, the corruption has to get out. We've to get out of this corrupted body before we can get into the body of incorruption.**

**God is the expert, and He decides when the perfect time is for each of us to depart from the earth. God's time is the best time.**

**Then there's “surpassing grace” which is in heaven where “the eye has never seen; the ear has never heard the phenomenal things God has for us.” In heaven there are colors you've never seen, there are sounds you've never heard, there are things in heaven you cannot even imagine in your wildest dreams. So, whenever you're in doubt. Always follow grace.**

**Revelation 2:10: “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”**

**Matthew 25:23: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”**

**What is the next weapon we have in our arsenal? Before we can go into battle, we need to dress appropriately so we need to be in the correct uniform!**

**So, as we watch things go crazy in this country we need to dress for battle. Ephesians 6:12-18:**

**<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and**