

Authority Run Amok

How Failures in Church
and Family
Have Put Our Society at Risk

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Authority Run Amok

by Mark W. Weaver

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Authority Run Amok: Introduction

*“For since the creation of the world
God’s invisible qualities—
his eternal power and divine nature—
have been clearly seen, being understood
from what has been made,
so that men are without excuse.”*

Romans 12: 20 NIV

WE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE. So say the Scriptures. God has clearly, mercifully, and graciously laid out for us all that we need to know Him and His ways.

But we have not paid heed. We have ignored not only His written Word, but also clear signs in the Divine order of things, both created and uncreated.

I am a word person and, by nature, a teacher. When I present a point, I try to come at it from the ground up. That is why I am spending several pages laying out some basic principles which will support the conclusions which will come together at the end. Some of the thoughts and ideas expressed here will probably not be new to you. But some of them no doubt will.

This booklet finds its original derivations in a personal letter I wrote to a dear friend of mine. Let’s call her Ann. Ann is an elementary school principal, and as such, is engaged in ministry of sorts, or in modern vernacular, a service to her community.

My friendship with Ann has taught me numerous things, not the least of which is that many in the field of public education are genuinely sincere, caring, selfless souls. Although my own children were educated in both public schools and private Christian schools, I have traditionally been mostly antagonistic to public education. And for me, one who came up and still resides in a Biblically-based worldview framework, getting

to know Ann has helped me to break out of some of my false impressions and stereotypes.

As you will see toward the end of this little booklet, my friend Ann, the elementary school principal, serves her community in many capacities. Besides being an educator and administrator, Ann is also a nurturer, a caregiver, a mediator, a counselor, and a family restorer. She also serves as a surrogate mother, not only to her students, but in some cases, to her student’s mothers as well.

In this convoluted culture of ours, where civil authority has run amok, Ann, the elementary school principal, is a pastor, a priest, and a shepherd. Things are not as they should be. It is not that Ann isn’t qualified, it’s that she is filling in voids where others have abandoned their responsibilities.

I need you to please bear with me for a few pages. Before I get to my theory as to why Ann and so many like her are functioning outside of their realm, I must first establish two simple precursory principles which I believe will help frame what follows. If you can be patient with me as you read on, I believe you will find a perspective that is fresh and invigorating, yet as old as time itself.

This booklet is divided into three sections:

- I: The Principle of Threes
- II: The One and the Many
- III: Roles out of Sync
- IV: Conclusions

Before I get into **The One and the Many**, a concept which has been floating around the philosophical world for centuries, I want to look briefly at **The Principle of Threes**.

Thank you for reading on,

Mark W. Weaver

Authority Run Amok: The Principle of Threes

SECTION I: THE PRINCIPLE OF THREES

THE WORLD IS CHARGED with the grandeur of God.

These words, penned by Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit poet, cause us to reflect upon the plethora of threes found just about everywhere we look. Have you noticed? Careful observation reveals a triadic dynamism in both the natural and the supernatural worlds.

Throughout the ages, philosophers and thinkers, both Christian and non-Christian, have pondered about, cogitated upon, and written down their thoughts about triunity. Triadic patterns can be found in countless places. Let's look at a few.

Threes in Education.

Let's begin with the learning process itself. In days of old, teachers referred to the fundamentals of education as "Readin', Writin' and 'Rithmetic." In these three, it was once believed, all learning is contained.

1.) *Reading* is the intake mechanism, the method by which students absorb information. As our culture moves away from reading and toward visual and the auditory learning, we become less and less educated.

2.) *Writing* is the mechanism by which knowledge becomes our own. As we read and cogitate, then write about what we have read and considered, we form our own ideas and values—we learn. In this process, knowledge becomes ours—not just someone else's handed down. I personally believe that visual and auditory learning are inferior to reading and writing because they do not sufficiently engage the cognitive processes.

3.) *Arithmetic* is primarily the exercise of logic and rationality in its purest form. Here, the mind is exercised in a different way. Whereas reading and writing deal in abstract concepts such as justice or mercy, arithmetic deals in absolutes.

Threes in Mathematics and Science.

Now, let's look more closely at threes in arithmetic—more accurately, the field of mathematics. Almost all mathematical relationships involve three elements.

The Pythagorean theorem demonstrates **The Principle of Threes** very clearly: The length of any one of a triangle's three sides can be determined if one knows the length of the other two sides. $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$.

But in fact, relationships of threes are everywhere in mathematics. Here are a few more examples of **The Principle of Threes** in mathematics:

- Three kinds of numbers = positive, negative and zero
- $1 + 1 = 2$
- Area = length · width
- The sin of an angle = opposite / hypotenuse
- $A = p \cdot r^2$

Basic accounting also works on **The Principle of Threes**:

- Debits + credits = balance

Physics provides many examples:

- Mass / volume = density
- Speed = distance / time

Recently my company engaged me in the development of a software program to assist in creating an automated method of pricing and quoting our many products. We used

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Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and created lengthy formulas to perform complex tasks. In every case, the complex formulas essentially boiled down to a relationship between three things. Let me give you an example:

If $A=x$ and $B=y$, then Z , if not, then W .

In fact, although I'm not a computer scientist, I believe that basic programming logic is essentially summed up in if/then arguments. If the answer to a question is affirmative, then do one thing. Otherwise, do something else. It's **The Principle of Threes!**

Mathematics and science are but two of countless arenas where **The Principle of Threes** is revealed. Here is another one.

Mathematical Threes in Creation.

Creation itself provides the most powerful of all testimonies to the principle of threes.

Consider the following:

- Matter = solid, liquid, gas
- The heavens = sun, moon, stars
- Our planet = earth, sky, water
- Spatial reality = height, width, depth
- Human existence = birth, life, death
- Time = past, present, future

Threes in Color.

There are just three colors that cannot be made or mixed from other colors. They are called the primary colors. From these three colors, all other colors can be made.

- Red
- Yellow
- Blue

Threes in Human Relationships.

Just as mathematical components have relationships, so do people:

- father + mother = child

I'm sure you can think of more.

Broken relationships have hope:

- hurt + forgiveness = healing

But they can also fail:

- hurt + unforgiveness = estrangement

Threes Point to Certainty and Security.

Yes, threes are everywhere. A three-legged stool is more stable than a four-legged stool. Three legs touching the ground will always be more stable than four because if one leg of the three gets shortened, the stability remains. This is not so with four legs.

For me, seeing threes all around me brings security. I see certainty and order in the universe—a design that undergirds all of life. Collections of threes speak to me of God.

Threes Point to Strength and Integrity.

... A threefold cord is not quickly broken.
(Eccl 4:12 NIV)

Some Threefold Cords:

The three sons of Noah, fathers of all the races of men.

- Ham
- Shem
- Japeth

Authority Run Amok: The Principle of Threes

The three disciples to whom Jesus was the closest.

- James
- John
- Peter

The Church

- Orthodox
- Catholic
- Protestant

The threefold cord of Protestantism

- Reformed (Creation)
- Evangelical (Justification)
- Pentecostal / Charismatic (Sanctification)

Threes in Scripture—A Few Anyway.

“... May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1Thes 5:23 NIV)

Man is a threefold being—actually a triple trinity.

- Man = body, soul, spirit
- Man’s body = flesh, blood bones
- Man’s soul = mind, will, emotions
- Man’s spirit = conscience, intuition, communion with God

Here’s a familiar passage:

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

(1 Cor 13:13 NIV)

There are three things that remain into eternity:

- Faith
- Hope
- Love

As I’m sure you know, there are countless more examples like this throughout the Scriptures.

Let us not forget the Tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness. The tabernacle itself consists of the following:

- The Outer Court
- The Inner Court
- The Holy of Holies

Inside the Inner Court we find three pieces of furniture:

- The Table of Shewbread
- The Golden Lampstand
- The Altar of Incense

Jesus said, I am,

- The Way
- The Truth
- The Life

(see John 14:6)

In a moment I’ll share a couple more scriptures with you.

Threes are everywhere because God wanted to reveal His nature in all of creation. As Christians, we of course believe that God is three-in-one—a Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Here’s what the Scriptures say about God’s nature revealed in creation.

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

(Rom. 1:20 NIV)

Authority Run Amok: The One and the Many

The very essence of God's nature is its threefold quality. Here are some more examples from the Bible which continue to reveal **The Principle of Threes:**

- At the burning bush, God revealed Himself to Moses as the God of the *threefold* patriarchy of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Jesus hung on the cross between two thieves, one who repented and one who hardened his heart—the *three* crosses of Calvary
- Jesus rose from the grave after *three* days

There are numerous other examples, far too many to list here.

SECTION II: THE ONE AND THE MANY

ARE YOU THE SAME PERSON today that you were on the day you were born? Well, yes and no. In terms of your essence, yes. You are the same individual that traveled down your mother's birth canal.

But in terms of your size, your experience, your knowledge, your relationships, no, you are not the same person. In fact, as time has progressed, you have been many persons. You have been the infant in your mother's arms, the toddler learning to walk, the child first exploring the world beyond your own backyard, the awkward pre-teen, the high-schooler, perhaps the college student, the wife or husband, maybe a mother or father, and conceivably even a grandma or grandpa.

As for me, along the way, I have been a hotel bellman, a bus boy, a cook, a janitor, a draftsman, a real estate agent, a civil engineer, a land surveyor, and a pipe salesman.

Oh, I almost forgot. I have been a worship leader, a Bible Study teacher, a songwriter, a novelist, and even a publisher. Yes, I have been many things.

Look at the photograph of me on my wedding day. Now look at a photo of me today—thirty years later. Am I the same person? Yes. Am I a different person? Yes.

An Old Theme.

For centuries, “the one and the many” theme has been a topic of philosophers, academicians, religionists, scientists, thinkers, and all kinds of other searching souls. In their quest for truth and understanding, men have been attempting to grasp and comprehend the mysteries of the universe since time began.

Our solar system is one, yet made up of many planets. Our galaxy is one, yet made up of many solar systems. Our universe is one, yet made up of many, many galaxies.

Now look at things on the other end of the size spectrum. An atom is made up of neutrons, electrons, and protons. And molecules are made up of various combinations of atoms. The one and the many.

In my own line of work, concrete pipe, I see this same principle in play. A single piece of concrete pipe consists of cement, aggregate, sand, water, and reinforcing steel, all formed into a circular shape, and hardened over time. Many components, yet one piece of pipe. Again, the one and the many.

Unity with Diversity.

Another way of expressing “the one and the many” is the idea of “unity with diversity.” Consider the orchestra. The string section is made up of the violins, the violas, the cellos,

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and the basses. Beyond these four, we might also find a piano, and a harp or two. And yet the strings are but one section among many. There are the woodwinds, the percussionists, the reeds, and perhaps the brass. All one and many, within **The One and the Many**.

Together, these instruments, when playing their scripted parts, combine together to create a beautiful blend of sound and rhythm, resulting in a singular presentation of a musical score. Through the unity of the diversity of these various instruments, a harmony springs forth—a beautiful blend that is pleasing to the ears.

What is a unit but a singular end product consisting of many parts? If your house is old, you may have a window air conditioning unit. Perhaps you own a home entertainment unit, housing your television, your sound system, and perhaps a DVD or VHS system. One unit, many parts.

The Family Unit.

Families also demonstrate the principle of **The One and the Many**. For example, my family consists of myself, my wife, and our three children. We are the Weaver family, one unit, but many people.

The Body of Christ.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, just prior to His crucifixion and death, Jesus prayed for us. He asked His Father to make us, His people, one.

“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:21 (NIV)

Paul, in Ephesians, speaks of the oneness of the Church, and its reflection of the very nature of God Himself. He said,

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 4: 4-6 (NIV)

Elsewhere, Paul speaks even more directly regarding **The One and the Many** or the “unity of diversity” within His Church.

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.”

I Corinthians 12: 12 (NIV)

The Godhead.

Unity, diversity, and harmony are most perfectly displayed in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the Divine mystery which underlies all expressions of **The One and the Many** in creation. The Trinity is He whom all philosophers, academicians, scientists, thinkers, etc. are seeking, although most of them do not recognize Him as the perfect original of “the one and the many” model.

He is One God, yet three Persons. We can scarcely get our finite minds around such a concept.

Think for a moment or two about water. In its basic form, water is one molecule composed of two parts hydrogen, and one part oxygen—H₂O—WOW, three atoms. And yet, depending upon the temperature, we can find H₂O in three separate states—liquid (water), solid (ice), and gas (steam).

An egg consists of the yoke, the white, and the shell. One egg, three components.

Authority Run Amok: Roles out of Sync

These examples fall far short in attempting to explain or describe the essence of our Trinitarian God. And yet with each one given, we see again and again, His signature upon creation.

Countless other examples could be found which would demonstrate the idea of **The One and the Many** as a reflection of God's Trinitarian nature. But I hope by now, you have grasped the general idea.

SECTION III: ROLES OUT OF SYNC

NOW THAT some ground work has been set in place, let us proceed to the heart of this message.

I have titled this booklet *Authority Run Amok*. But I have not yet addressed the theme of authority. To properly introduce the theme of authority into this discussion, a few more scriptures and Biblical ideas will be helpful

Threes in Government.

Here is a scripture with three things in it which, when I discovered it and contemplated its meaning, I found my thinking to be radically altered. If you have never seen this before, you will be amazed:

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.”

(Isa. 33:22 NIV)

God is our:

- Judge
- Lawgiver
- King

Here we have laid out for us in plain sight, the three fundamental functions of government. Are you beginning to see the

brilliance of our Founding Fathers? Our Constitution established three branches of government. It is fashioned like a stable, three legged stool. Each branch has a unique and separate function:

- The Judicial Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch

Have you ever wondered why our nation has been stable and strong for so many years? Could it be because our system is modeled upon God's own governmental roles? And these are not just any three governmental functions—but the same three governmental functions that God himself exercises in His creation.

These three are the fundamental powers of government: to make law, to exercise judgment in accordance with law, and to carry out the law. God alone is capable of handling all three of these functions. Only He can perfectly balance all of the roles at once.

Here's another government-related scripture:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders...”
(Isa 9:6 NIV)

Only Jesus can manage all three roles. Only Jesus can carry the government upon His shoulders. But we weak and fallible men must have these governmental powers divided among ourselves so as not to fall prey to the abuse of power. Yes, power and authority must be distributed among men or else tyrannies arise. Such is the wisdom of our Founding Fathers!

Look at Jesus. He is our:

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- Prophet
- Priest
- King

Here are a few word associations that help me to clarify the three ministerial roles listed above:

- Prophet: Truth; Standard; Vision; Judge; Correction.
- Priest: Mercy; Caring; Mediation; Compassion; Counselor.
- King: Administrator; Manager; Planner; Director.

Again:

- Prophet: Christ proclaiming God's message of hope to mankind.
- Priest: Christ bridging the vast chasm between our wretched, sinful race and a perfect, holy God.
- King: Christ the Lord seated on His governing throne until all things are brought into subjection under His authority.

In these examples, we have not only **The Principle of Threes**, but also **The One and the Many**. But only in God can all of these functions, all of these roles, be managed and exercised effectively.

Oh, and look at this set of threes! It is our Federalist system of civil government:

- National Government
- State Governments
- Local Governments

More Threes in Government.

The next set of threes are the ones I really want to focus on. Here are the three legitimate spheres wherein God has entrusted His

authority to men.

- Family government
- Church government
- Civil government

God has not placed all of His power in the hands of a few. He has distributed it around so as to protect and preserve our freedom.

Each of these three governments have unique roles and responsibilities within society. Each possess legitimate fragments of God's authority to manage the particular sphere entrusted to them.

Earlier, I mentioned the three-legged stool. Consider its qualities. Unlike a four-legged stool, a three-legged stool will never wobble or be unstable. With four legs, if one is slightly shorter than the other three, the stool will not sit solidly upon the floor. Three of the four legs, however, will always be resting solidly upon the floor.

With the family, church, and civil spheres, we have the ultimate three-legged stool. When authority is properly balanced and managed among these three spheres—family, church and state—societies flourish. But when authority among these three is not balanced—guess what? The three-legged stool still stands. It is lopsided, yes; out of sync, yes; but still stable! This is where we are in America today.

Oh what genius God has!

Your church pastor or parish priest cannot tax you. Your parents cannot arrest you for speeding. Civil magistrates do not have the authority to punish your children for misbehavior—unless of course they break the law.

Authority Run Amok: Roles out of Sync

Authority Absorbed.

What happens when governments (family and church) fall short in their responsibilities? What happens when a child breaks the law? The lines get blurred, don't they? Authority from one sphere spills over into another. The threefold design of God's government amongst men breaks down. And legitimate authority gets taken away.

If a parent cannot manage a child and that child becomes unlawful, the parent's authority over that child gets taken away by the civil authorities. If a parent mismanages an entire family, civil authorities step in and take away all the children and place them in foster care.

Now, let's take a different angle. Suppose a family simply breaks up—no lawbreaking here—just the failure of human beings to do their very best to maintain family integrity. What happens? Contrary to the opinions of some, family breakups place an undue burden on society at large.

Sometimes the church will step in and absorb some of the backwash of broken families. This is and should be the first course of action.

In my life, if relationship problems cannot be worked out within the family sphere, I go to the church sphere for help. My last remedy is to go to the civil authorities for help. I have actually had to do this once in my life. It was painful.

If families work according to plan, all of society works according to plan. Power or authority functions best in small increments. This is why God designed families.

It is the role of the Church to step in between the broken family and the state and act as an intermediate agent of healing and

restoration. Like Christ, the Church fulfills a priestly, mediating role. There are many Biblical admonitions about feeding the hungry and taking care of those whom cannot take care of themselves. One of the tasks of the Church is to restore the family and family government. Things work best at the most basic level. But what happens when people in mass numbers fail to manage their own family spheres and there is no church to step in and help? What happens when the Church fails, too?

If families fail without a church to help them, they lose their God-given family authority and the state absorbs their authority. The Church should be working to keep families strong, to keep authority working properly within families. But when the Church isn't there to restore, the state steps in and assumes not only the role of the family, but also the role of the church. The state has so much power today because it has absorbed the legitimate power of so many failed families and individuals—and also some of the authority of an absentee Church.

God created families to nurture and care not only for the young but for all within their sphere or circle. He created the Church to help families by providing them with tools to aid them in their relationships with God, and to help strengthen individuals and families from the inside out through instruction, prayer, fellowship and also through the sacraments such as the Lord's Supper.

Capitalism vs. Socialism.

The most predominant economic ideologies today, are boiled down to two. Each represent an opposite end of **The One and the Many** spectrum.

Karl Marx, the foremost promoter of modern socialist thought, a salesman really, be-

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lieved that the **Many** are to take precedent over the **One**. Marx saw the working class, the masses, or the proletariat, as the center of the economic universe. Socialist-Democratic writings are peppered with the phrase, “the people.” In Marx’s worldview, the individual gets swallowed up by the masses, the **One** overwhelmed by the **Many**.

Our nation’s Founders however, because of the strong Judeo-Christian Worldview underlying their political ideology, focused upon freedom for the individual. They saw the elevation of the **One** as the key to freedom and economic prosperity for the **Many**. That is why we have a Bill of Rights, why the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and why, on so many levels, the **One** takes precedent over the **Many**. In our Founder’s model, capitalism is free to flourish, and wealth the potential of every individual.

Of course these descriptions are oversimplifications of complex ideologies. But they are important to understand as we press forward in search of reasons for our own nation’s present-day lopsided leanings toward centralized authority.

Defining Roles and Chains of Command.

God did not create the state to be a nurturer and caregiver. Since the state has become involved in nurturing and caregiving, it has stepped outside of its legitimate sphere. It is not the legitimate function of civil government to feed children. That is not even the role of the public schools. That task is given by God to the family government. The civil government and the schools feed children because family governments and church governments have failed.

As I learned by observing Ann, the schools are trying to take up the slack caused by

family failures. And schools are also taking up the slack caused by Church failures.

In the threefold governmental structure described above, where do public educators get their authority? From the state? From the families in their community? From the families of their specific students? What chain of authority does the school operate under? It seems to me that public education falls under the authority structure of the civil sphere. In fact, the salaries of public educators are paid by tax revenues! And even if your children are home-schooled, or private-schooled, your taxes still go to support the public school system.

And yet, although it is not their God-given role, schools have become nurturers and caregivers. Things are not as they were designed to be.

In my view, schools should derive their authority not from the state but from the family. Is it not, after all, a parents’ responsibility to train their children? Thousands—no hundreds of thousands—of families all across America are now homeschooling their children. As one who has worked with homeschoolers, I think it’s fair to say that most homeschoolers sincerely believe that it is their God-given role to train their children. And not the role of the state.

So where does all of this lead?

Simply this. What Ann has helped me to see, is that in addition to being educators, public school teachers and administrators have also become nurturers and caregivers. As noted in my introduction, because of family failures, public school workers are now mediators and counselors. By default, some of

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the weight of failed families and even failed churches has now fallen upon their shoulders.

Public schools have become a quasi-church. Teachers and administrators are surrogate priests, pastors, and shepherds. Ann even helps the single-parent mothers of her students to find government assistance, counseling, and in other ways as needed.

SECTION IV: CONCLUSIONS

LOOK ONCE AGAIN at that three-legged stool. Some of the family leg has been sawed off. Some of the Church leg has been sawed off. And the state or civil leg has grown. The stool is lopsided—still standing but lopsided.

I believe that this is the very thing our Founding Fathers feared. What if too much power became consolidated within the sphere of the state? What would eventually happen to basic freedoms? Can the state—and all associated with the state including public education—really be prophet, priest and king all rolled into one? I believe that only God Himself can balance those roles effectively. We must share them.

How long do we have until this lopsided three-legged stool completely topples over?

God has clearly delineated the roles each part is to play. He has defined the way in which society is to relate and function.

But with the gradual removal of power and authority from the family and the Church, we are all drifting from the **One** toward the **Many**. Every time a family government falters, and the Church fails to restore it, our children risk losing their individuality, their uniqueness, even their souls, to the state.

Every time this happens, we all lose just a little bit of our own freedom, because as a society we each have to absorb our share of the burdens, both psychological and financial, which failed families have been unable to carry. And, after knowing Ann, I realize more than ever that these burdens are coming with increasing intensity to the public education system. The influx of shifted responsibility is moving in that direction by default, not because public educators are necessarily grasping for them.

On the other hand, there are many who believe with all of their hearts that the civil government—including the public schools—really can and even should be our prophet, priest and king—our everything from cradle to grave. Some, in generations past, have even plotted and planned for this day. But that is another theme for another booklet.

I believe that people who think this way, sincere as they may be, are grossly misguided.

Where to From Here?

Families are the cornerstone of freedom, and must be restored to save our culture from destruction. **The Principle of Threes** is out of balance in our land. The **One** is slowly being eaten up by the **Many**. Civil institutions and schools should be working to divest themselves of the power that has fallen into their hands by default.

But this is not likely to happen. Power, once obtained, is very difficult to relinquish.

So, the burden now falls upon the Church. And that, really, is where the burden has always been. Churches must now focus their efforts on two fronts:

Authority Run Amok: Conclusion

1. rebuilding family governments,
2. keeping the powers of the civil government at bay.

These should be our chief goals today. As God's prophetic mouthpiece in society, the Church's role is to proclaim God's message into every area of life. But how do we go about doing this?

Consider Christ's Great Commission:

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [□] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20 NIV

Discipleship is, and always has been, Christ's prescription for these ills. We need to be proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the gospel of His Lordship, His rule, His authority over all that is.

1. Restoring Families:

Marriages are deteriorating far too easily in the American Church today. We need to teach and instruct Christian families in two main areas:

- Biblical Covenant—a fuller understanding of God's covenantal nature, of His expectations for us, and also of His grace to enable us. We need to raise once again the Biblical standard for marriage in our land. We, the Church, have fallen miserably short in this area.

- Biblical Patriarchy—a restoration of true fatherhood in families. Our culture has been grossly feminized over the last several generations. We have been preaching Jesus, but we have failed to preach Father God. Our land needs true fathers to lead and guide our families in these dark and difficult days.

2. Keeping the State at Bay:

Jesus' command directed us to make disciples of nations. Today, we are barely making disciples of people, let alone nations. Again, we need to war on two fronts:

- Christian Leaders—we need more Christian men and women with a strong Biblical Worldview to become engaged in the marketplace of ideas. We need statesmen, political leaders at every level, teachers, writers, artists, and more. We need to get out of the "ghettos" of our own church comfort zones, and get into the nerve centers of culture.
- Strengthen our Institutions of Learning—Harvard (1636), Yale (1701), Princeton (1812), each of these schools was founded to raise up men to serve in the ministry. Each had in its original charter, a mission to "lay Christ in the bottom" of all learning. These institutions, and many others, have, over time, fallen prey to the vain philosophies of the world. We need to strengthen our Christian institutions of learning, and we need more of them.

These things, in addition to prayer, and good, old-fashioned Christian service, will, over time, help to re-right the unbalanced, three-legged stool. And toward all of these ends, we must rediscover God's Divine design for us, including **The Principle of Threes** and **The One and the Many**.