



The Truth Project Study Aid  
Harbor of Grace Church Winter 2021

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**Week Eight & Nine Study Aid – Sociology: The Divine Imprint, Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?**

When we took a look at the wonder and order of the physical world in our survey of science, we saw that God had created a world that pointed to His greatness and power. We saw that the order and complexity found in nature points back to God, revealing to us things we can know about God through what has been created. In this tour of social order we see that social systems also point back to God, revealing to us things about God's design tied to His very nature.

One of the key ideas in this tour is the idea that God has created social systems modeled after the Godhead in that there we find perfect equality yet role playing and a positive expression of authority and submission. Dr. Tackett focuses on three examples of social systems: Family, Church, God & Man, arguing that basic social institutions such as marriage, family, and church have come under such heavy attack in our day. Dr. Tackett says, "Just as the world, the flesh, and the devil hate the Creator with a fervent and undying hatred, so they inevitably stand opposed to the social order that bears the imprint of His divine nature."

Is it any wonder that the world, the flesh, and the devil hate the family and work daily to destroy and undermine its biblical structure? If Satan can be successful in destroying the family, he can also be successful in injuring the Church because the Church is made up of individuals called to live in biblical community as brothers and sisters in Christ. How we understand the family with its equality for each member yet role playing, authority and, submission impacts our view of role playing, authority, and submission in the local church as well. How we love one another, and submit to one another is directly tied to how we understand the nature of God where we find love, unity, and equality as well as authority and submission.

We were made for community because we are made in the image of God, and in the Godhead, we see an eternal sense of community God being one in essence yet three in persons. Three critical social systems are worth considering in light of this truth. The family, the Church, and the union between God and man. Consider your own personal experience with each of these three social systems. Is there pain, disappointment or disunity in one or all of them? In that pain, disappointment or disunity, can you identify sin as the root cause? Is there selfishness, abuse, pride, neglect, or any other sin that you might be responsible for that contributed to the pain, disunity or disappointment you have experienced? How is the gospel the way forward?

Praise God that the gospel is all about restoration and reconciliation. Because we can be reconciled to God through forgiveness in Jesus Christ and because we are loved perfectly even though we have sinned and will sin, we are able to be restored with our fellow man in forgiveness and love as well. He who loves much is forgiven much, and he who is loved much is able to love much. And we love because He first loved us. Praise God!

Scripture for meditation: 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 5:11, 9:16; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4 & 5; Galatians 2:20

Then consider the following questions:

1. How might we be agents of reconciliation in our families, churches and in the world?
2. How is the gospel the foundation to our answers to this question?
3. How is your personal union with Christ the starting point for unity with God and others?

I pray that this study has been helpful and that God allows you to use these truths to share your faith this week. We are in a battle of worldviews, and what we believe matters. What we believe becomes our character, and our character our actions.

-Pastor Rob Lewis