

**Manage Your Life
According to the Order of Creation
1 Corinthians 14:33, 40**

The universe exists in order. Countless stars and galaxies stay in order. Every institution, every society, and every civilization operates in order. We cannot imagine an army which does not have order. We cannot imagine a government which governs without order. Our personal lives should be in order too.

If there is no order, we call it “chaos.” Chaos destroys everything in our lives. But order brings efficiency, safety, balance, harmony, beauty, peace and power. We can find order in the life of every man who manages his life successfully.

Is your life in order now? If your answer is yes, in what sense is your life in order? If your answer is no, how will you put your life in order?

To orderly manage our lives, we must understand the source of order. What is its’ origin? It is from God’s creation. If we manage our lives in the order of God’s creation, eventually we can orderly manage everything in our own lives.

The order of God, man and all other creatures

Originally, God created this world as a paradise (Genesis Chapters 1-2). In this paradise, God created man to worship Him. God created all other creatures to bless man. After God created man, God blessed man and said “*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*” So there was order in paradise. It was God-man-all creatures.

God created man to worship and love God, then to love man, and finally to rule over all other creatures.

As long as man kept this order, he lived in paradise without any problems. He had everything he needed. There was nothing that may cause trouble or pain. There was no sickness or death. There was complete peace, joy, holiness, and glory.

But man was tempted by Satan. He listened to Satan and disobeyed (Genesis 3:1-6) what God had told him (Genesis 2:16-17). It was the beginning of sin. The result? Right after man disobeyed God, he was caught by fear. He hid himself from God's presence. When God called him, "Where are you" he answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." (Genesis 3:10).

Man's relationship with God was broken. The original order of creation: God-man-creatures became upside down: creatures- man- God or man-creatures- God, or man -God- creatures. All unbelievers live under this broken order (Romans 1:21-25). In some cultures, people worship the sun, a star, or an animal such as an eagle or a snake.

In this condition, the blessing was turned to a curse. Fear crippled man's heart. Self-consciousness rob man of freedom. This is a spiritual, mental and emotional curse. Under this curse, man lives in a chaos of immorality (Romans 1:26-32).

To restore the broken order, God gave the most important promise of all: "***he (the Christ) will crush your (Satan's) head***" (Genesis 3:16). As He promised, God sent Christ whose name was Jesus.

By sacrificing His life on the cross, Jesus paid in full the penalty for our sins and has reconciled us to God. So through the cross of Jesus, our relationship with God is restored. We can call God Father and worship Him without fear. We receive God's blessing to rule over all creatures.

God

 Man

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Creatures Creation

We are all sinners. There is no one who can have a right relationship with God (Romans 3:10). But by believing in the cross of Christ, we can restore our relationship with God.

In this restored relationship, we must worship and love God. We must do everything to give God glory. We must love God more than we love man or other creatures. In our relationship with other humans, we shall not worship any man. We shall not look down upon any man. We must respect every man as one in God's image. We must love and serve each other. We must love man more than we love other creatures. In the relationship with creatures, we shall never worship any creature. We must rule over all creatures.

If you follow this order, God will bless you with a paradise of joy and peace. God will bless your rule over creation. God will lift up your name.

The order of the word

God created the universe and everything in it with nothing but His word.

Before God's creation there was nothing. But when God spoke, all of creation—light, water, land, stars, fish, plants, vegetation, birds, animals and human beings came out just as he said. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light (Genesis 1:1-3).*

Then what is the "word" of God?

The gospel John explains what it is: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:1, 14).*

In this passage, the word refers to Jesus.

In this world there are many people who claim God's words.

But only the word in Jesus, with Jesus, of Jesus and by Jesus is the true word of God. Even if people use the word of God, it cannot be the word of God if it has nothing to do with Jesus. God's word without Jesus or with emphasis of something or someone other than Jesus is just legalistic religious law, man's philosophy, or the teaching of cults. It sounds true, but it does not give light or life. It sounds very convincing, but it has no grace. It sounds powerful, but the power does not save sinners.

The word in Jesus gives light and life (John 1:4). The word of Jesus brings grace (John 1:16-17). The word of Jesus has power to save sinners (1 Peter 1:23). When you hear any word of God, watch out! Does the word carries grace, light and life, and offers power to save man from sin. If you can't find this, don't listen to it. Be on your guard against any teaching of God's word without Jesus. Reject any word which teaches truth without Jesus.

When God called Abraham to bless him, God didn't give him a building. God didn't give him people. God didn't give him money. God didn't give him power. God gave him His word. God gave him nothing but His word (Genesis 12: 1-3). And the word was related to a son, through whom God would establish an eternal kingdom. This son is Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1).

God persuaded Abraham to keep believing in His word of a son. And when Abraham believed in the word, God blessed him. God made him rich. God made him the father of all believers. God made his name great.

When God blesses you He gives you His word of Jesus. Jesus said, "*I am the truth.*" Jesus also said, *Heaven and earth will pass away but, my words will never pass away* (Mark 13:31).

Once during Jesus' public ministry, He clarified that the main purpose of His life and ministry was not giving physical bread or healing but giving

the word. At hearing this many people deserted Him. At that time Jesus asked His disciples, “*You do not want to leave too, do you?*” The disciples answered, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:68).

Listen to the word of Jesus. Follow Jesus not for just physical blessings but for the words of eternal life. And you will receive the power of creation. You will see that the word brings everything out of nothing.

In 1987 several students from UIC asked me to come to their campus and teach them the Bible. They had nothing: no building, no office, no tools for ministry. I also had nothing to help them. I was unable to speak English. The only thing they and I had was the words of Jesus. I shared the words with them every day. The words brought more students to salvation. By the words, I and students found everything we needed for the ministry- the power of salvation, the power of the tongue, of encouragement, wisdom, strength, hope, forgiveness, and love. The words gave our ministry a vision for the whole world. The words have led me to serve people of many nations today.

Let’s believe that the word of Jesus will provide what we need to reach out to more people from many nations.

Do you want to receive God’s abundant blessing this year? Hear the words of God through Jesus. Connect every word of God to Jesus. Put Jesus at the center of every word, and keep believing it.

The order of the Sabbath

God took six days to create the universe and everything in it. And he took a day of rest on the 7th day: *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.* (Genesis 2:2).

Was God tired? Did He need time to rest? No. God is not a physical being. He is spirit (John 4:24). The reason He took the 7th day as a day

of rest is to set a rule of blessing for man: *Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done* (Genesis 2:3).

God has given us the Sabbath to bless our lives. With the Sabbath God makes our lives healthy, joyful, and rich. If you keep the Sabbath holy as God commands, you will be healthy, joyful, and rich.

God gave His people the Ten Commandments to help them live their lives in order. The 4th commandment in the Ten Commandments concerns the Sabbath: *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”* (Exodus 20:8). It is as important as all the other commandments such as “do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, and do not give false testimony.”

For forty years, God trained the Israelites to keep the Sabbath holy. Six days a week they had to work to get their daily bread. But the seventh day, they didn't need to work. God provided enough food on the 6th day both for the 6th day and the 7th day. While they follow this order, they always had sufficient food every day for 40 years.

With the Sabbath God tests you and makes you lack of nothing. A limo driver was asked how many miles he was expected to get out of his limo. He said that he had driven his previous vehicle over 400,000 miles without a single major engine repair, and that he fully expected to do the same with his current one. When he was asked how he could possibly put that many miles on a car, he replied with a single word: "Maintenance." Now that should not come as a surprise to any of us. The importance of proper maintenance to the life of any vehicle is a well-known fact. For our cars to last, we must periodically change the oil, rotate the tires, lubricate the undercarriage, tune the engine, and replace worn parts. If we do, the car will last much longer than if we don't. But this truth applies to more than just cars.

There is a great truth here for all of us as well. Just as our automobiles need periodic maintenance, so also do we. There is a “maintenance law” for cars, and there is a “maintenance law” for people too. This maintenance law is found in the order of the Sabbath.

God has given us this commandment not to restrict our freedom but to ensure our freedom and to let us live in His full blessing. It is God’s perfect plan for our total welfare.

Then what does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy? It means to keep the Sabbath to worship God first of all and to spiritually feed our souls. Some people use the Sabbath day as a day of relaxing. They spent time on the Sabbath to catch up on sleep, to watch sports games, to exercise, to do things they can’t do on other days. Of course these are good and necessary. But above all these, we must take time to exclusively worship God and serve Him on the Sabbath. If we manage our lives according to the order of the Sabbath, God will take care of our health, our finance, and our future.