

GOVERNMENT – DEFINITIONS, JURISDICTIONS, LEVELS & BOUNDARIES

Definition - government – *Direction, regulation, control, restraint. (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)*

There are four distinct **jurisdictions** – *limits within which each government power may be exercised - according to Webster:*

First - SELF-GOVERNMENT - *Men are apt to neglect the government of their temper and passions.*

Second - FAMILY GOVERNMENT - *The exercise of authority by a parent or householder. Children are often ruined by a neglect of government in parents.*

Third – CHURCH GOVERNMENT - *The persons or council who direct the ministries and ordinances of the church.*

Fourth – CIVIL GOVERNMENT - *That form of fundamental rules and principles by which a nation or state is governed; a constitution by which the rights and duties of citizens and public officers are prescribed and defined.*

*Within the Civil Government there are three levels - Federal – State – Local. Each of these also have their own distinct jurisdictions – Constitutional limits within which their power to direct, regulate control or restrain may be exercised. This is described in the Tenth Amendment: **The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.***

*Below are the biblically described details and **boundaries** - jurisdictional realms - of **FAMILY – CHURCH – CIVIL** – government:*

FAMILY

Marriage – Exodus 22:16-17

Raising children – Ephesians 6:1-4

Property ownership – Leviticus 25

Business ownership – Leviticus 25

Inheritance – Leviticus 25

Education – Deuteronomy 6:7-9

Welfare – 1 Timothy 5:8

CHURCH

Public ministry of the Word of God –

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Public ministry of worship – 1 Timothy 2

*Ministry of ordinances (communion,
baptisms, etc.) – 1 Corinthians 11*

Ministry to those who do not have family –

1 Timothy 5:3-16

CIVIL

Ministry of justice -

Romans 13:1-4

Ministry of military defense -

Numbers 31:3