

Life Group Notes 10/5/2025 Mark

Warren Sacred Order Week 1

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Leaders: please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions the follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 10/5. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another***

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

We've begun a new format that will always begin with a summary of the notes, followed by study questions. This week, notes in full detail can be found beginning on page 3:

Section I: Summary

Here's "co-pilot's" AI summary of the 10-05-2025 Sermon Lifegroup Notes Mark Warren Sacred Order Week 1:

Theme

Pastor Mark's message focuses on "Sacred Order"—God's original design for family, church, and government. The study is rooted in Scripture, emphasizing that doctrine must be based on the Word and received personally.

Key Points & Discussion Questions

- Genesis 1:26-28: God created humans in His image, male and female, and gave them dominion over creation. The notes encourage reflection on the meaning of dominion, gender roles, and God's intention for humanity.
- Sacred Order: God established an order for society to flourish—beginning with family, then church, then government. Blessing and prosperity follow when society aligns with God's order.

- **Truth vs. Tolerance:** The notes challenge the idea of “my truth vs. your truth,” emphasizing that there is one Truth—God’s Truth.
- **Gender & Marriage:** Discussion on the sufficiency of God’s design for gender, marriage, and family, and the cultural pressures to redefine these concepts.
- **Obedience & Blessing:** Obedience to God’s order brings blessing; deviation leads to confusion and decline.
- **Scripture References:** Includes passages from Genesis, Mark, Romans, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Psalms, Malachi, and 2 Timothy to explore themes of divine order, marriage, societal decline, and the value of children.
- **Cultural Shifts:** Reflection on how culture has shifted away from biblical principles, the consequences of declining birth rates, and the importance of securing blessings for future generations.
- **Personal Application:** Encourages SOAP journaling (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) for deeper study and personal alignment with God’s Word.

Practical Steps & Reflection

- **Group Discussion:** The notes provide highlighted questions for group discussion, urging sensitivity, kindness, and Spirit-led conversation.
- **Personal Testimony:** Participants are invited to share personal experiences related to God’s order and cultural changes.
- **Action Items:** Lists steps to align one’s home, marriage, and priorities with God’s Word, and ways to point others back to God without judgment.

Conclusion

Living according to God’s sacred order brings blessing; rejecting it leads to inevitable decline. The notes end with a call to prayer and ongoing personal study.

Section II: Study questions

Scripture & Sacred Order

1. **Genesis 1:26-28:** What does it mean to be created in God’s image? How does this shape our understanding of dominion and responsibility?
2. How does God’s original design for family, church, and government reflect His sacred order?
3. What are the implications of “male and female He created them” for gender roles and equality? (Scribe: See the notes on Page 3, question 4 from the first section!)

Truth & Culture

4. What is the difference between “my truth” and “God’s Truth”? Why is this distinction important?
5. How has modern culture shifted away from biblical principles regarding family and gender?
6. What are the consequences of society redefining marriage, gender, and family outside of God’s design?

Obedience & Blessing

7. According to the notes, how does obedience to God's order bring blessing? What happens when we deviate from it?
8. How does the concept of "one flesh" in marriage relate to God's sacred order? Why does God hate divorce?

Personal Reflection & Application

9. How have you personally experienced the blessings or challenges of aligning with God's order?
10. In what ways can you point others back to God's design without judgment or condemnation?
11. What practical steps can you take to align your home, marriage, and priorities with God's Word?

Section III: Complete study notes

Reclaiming God's Plan for Family, Church, and Government Week One.

Mark began today's message with Genesis 1: [26](#) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it."* [27](#) *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* [28](#) *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth."* Then he said, "From the very beginning of time God created things and He put things in motion, and He created an order to them. This is why we're beginning this series: Sacred order."

1. What do you see?
2. Read the verses again. Do you see anything new?
3. Talk about dominion: Who is in charge? Explain the implications.
4. Look at verse 27. Where is the female in the image of God?
5. Who is His Bride? How do we know His bride was on His heart before she was created?
6. Who came first? Adam or Eve? From what was Eve taken?
7. So...was Adam ever truly without Eve?
8. If we're talking about "God's sacred order," how did that structure begin...in order?

Mark says, "I think sometimes, thinking about this relationship with God, calling it a 'personal relationship,' as it should be as with family and friends, but we forget that God has ordered something for society to flourish for a larger group of people...for nations. When society follows God's order, there's a blessing and prosperity that follows. Today, we're going to look at family. Then at the church. Then at government."

1. Plan the future messages. What thoughts does Pastor Mark evoke here.
2. What do these principles say of God's original order?
3. Review: What was Jesus' final "new" commandment from John 13? How does obedience to that commandment fit here?

Mark laid out the challenge: "In a world where we were taught to be 'tolerant,' and tolerance is OK, but if it means we can only say, 'My "truth" is my truth, and your "truth" is your truth,' we end up not talking about the Truth."

1. Explain.
2. Who loses when we "tolerate" different "truths." How many Truths are there?
3. What is the foundation of the Truth: Where do you begin?
4. Is it constructive when we "...agree to disagree..." Explain. Who loses?
5. What exactly does God's original design entail? Can you give details?
6. Do you know what 67 or "six-seven" means?

✠ **Will we align ourselves with God's sacred order?**

Mark says, "When we encounter someone who believes differently from us, looks different and behaves differently, we allow great honor and respect because they are made in God's image. Male and female means equal value, but distinct roles."

1. Explain.
2. Do you have a testimony? How have you learned the lesson of distinction over the years?
3. How have shifts in culture changed our view? Have we grown? Or do we need to repent? Explain.
4. Look again, above, at verse [28](#) *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth."* Describe the several facets of this blessing?
5. Is being fruitful and multiplying a blessing today? Explain.
6. What does it mean to "fill the earth?"
7. What does it mean to "subdue it?" What is now man's responsibility?
8. What are the limits, if any?
9. Mark says, "Obedience to His order brings a blessing." Explain.
10. Look at Genesis 2: [24](#) *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* How does the order necessarily change as time passes?
11. Why does God hate divorce? How does dividing one flesh into two cause unspeakable pain?
12. Examine Mark 10: [5](#) *But Jesus told them, "Moses wrote this commandment for you because of your hardness of heart. [6](#) However, from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'* [7](#) *'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, [8](#) and the two will become one flesh.'* *So they are no longer two, but one flesh. [9](#) Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."* Read this as for the first time. What do you see?
13. How hard have our own hearts become?
14. By permitting divorce, what was God protecting us from?
15. What has been the total cost when we add up all the consequences?
16. What would happen if God ever decided to divorce His own bride?
17. How often do we challenge God's resolve not to divorce His Bride? Explain.

Mark continues, "God's original design does not change with fashions. Jesus does not become more "hip" as the generations come and go. He doesn't become more relevant,

bending to cultural innovation or norms. In fact, He set something in motion from the beginning of time, and said, 'You do it this way, and you'll experience a blessing.'

1. Explain.
2. Was Jesus more hip for the boomers than He is today for Gen XYZ/Mill? Why or why not?
3. Mark asks, "Do you see God's design of gender/marriage/family as sufficient, or do you believe cultural redefinition is necessary. Culture is pressuring us to adapt to new ways of thinking." Answer him.
4. Do you know history? Are these "new" ways of thinking new? Explain.
5. How old are these "new" ways of thinking?
6. How does learning God's original order differ from us judging others?
7. Mark differentiates between judging others, and making our own decision to recognize and pursue God's order. What changes when we decide to do the latter, and eschew the former?

✠ **"How do we do our best in a broken and fallen world?"**

1. What does this mean?
2. What is our best? At what?

Mark reviewed Romans 1: [21](#) *For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts. [22](#) Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools, [23](#) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. [24](#) Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity for the dishonoring of their bodies with one another. [25](#) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen. [26](#) For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. [27](#) Likewise, the men abandoned natural relations with women and burned with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

1. What happens when society rejects the Divine Order, and creates its own?
2. List the steps in order delineated here by Paul that lead to depravity.
3. How do we know Paul had rare insights into human behavior?
4. Is Paul's message a message for his day, or is it a universal call to awakening?
5. Read on: [28](#) *Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. [29](#) They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, [30](#) slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents. [31](#) They are senseless, faithless, heartless, merciless. [32](#) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.* Does verse 28 suggest a solution to this problem?
6. How have we rebelled against the divine order?
7. What does a depraved mind look like? How do you recognize the fruit of a depraved mind?

8. If "God gave them over..." is there any hope left?
9. What would change if we chose to repent and to acknowledge God as God?

Mark says, "I'm not saying that what we've experienced, and the trauma we have suffered has not led us to conclusions that were confused in the process. I am saying we must not allow the feelings or the trauma to define what reality is. Let's go back to what God's plan is and what God's order is. Let's contend for this, *while* having compassion for people who are living in this lifestyle."

1. Your thoughts?
2. Is this controversial? Or common sense? Explain, with care and compassion.
3. "God's Word is clear. When His order is replaced with feelings and human preference, confusion follows. It's a reality." Do you have a testimony?
4. Look at Deuteronomy 22:[5](#)*A woman must not wear men's clothing, and a man must not wear women's clothing, for whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD your God.* Is this about clothing? Or divine order? Explain.
5. How applicable to today is the principle expressed in this verse? Discuss it.
6. Why is it important not to blur the distinctions between biological sexes?
7. How has today's culture rebelled against these precepts?
8. To what degree has this rebellion been extended? What can happen if you defend the divine order? Do you have an example?

Look up Isaiah 5:[20](#)*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who turn darkness to light and light to darkness, who replace bitter with sweet and sweet with bitter.* [21](#)*Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.*

1. Is this a word for today? In what sense?
2. How do you know if you are "wise in your own eyes and clever in your own sight," and not in the ways of God?
3. List things that are truly bitter. List what is truly sweet? Which do you prefer?
4. Scripture says that children are a "blessing from the Lord." Do you agree?
5. Does the decline in our societies' birth rate suggest anything that should concern us? Explain.
6. Respond to this verse from Psalm 127:[3](#)*Children are indeed a heritage from the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is His reward.* [4](#)*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are children born in one's youth.* [5](#)*Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.*
7. Why does today's culture treat children as a burden? What happens to a culture that is self-centered and self-seeking?
8. Review the preamble to the US Constitution: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and **secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...**" Explain how an awareness of the needs of coming generations increase the solemnity of our engagement?
9. How does our own engagement decrease, when we lose awareness of the consequences of our behavior to our progeny?
10. How does this preserve the principle that kids are a blessing, not a burden?

Mark spoke of diminishing birth rates, and the impossibility of a society to continue if the birth rate is not above two children per adult couple.

1. Why is this a problem?
2. What are the inevitable consequences when one country stops producing posterity for whom to secure the blessings of liberty? Who replaces the childless inhabitant?
3. Review again 2 Timothy 4: ***3**For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. **4**So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.* How do we know those days have come as Paul foretold? Do you have a testimony?
4. Explain how our personal desires make choices for us as for to whom we are willing to listen?
5. Is this what “a depraved mind” look like? Explain. Do we know right from wrong, or does right and wrong just matter less?
6. Look back at [Genesis 1:28 above](#). It says, “God blessed them...” What exactly is the blessing?
7. Look at Malachi 2: ***13**And this is another thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and groaning, because He no longer regards your offerings or receives them gladly from your hands. **14**Yet you ask, “Why?” It is because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have broken faith, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. **15**Has not the LORD made them one, having a portion of the Spirit? And why one? **Because He seeks godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.* What do you see?
8. What, according to God, is the purpose of our covenant with our spouses?
9. How far have we fallen from God’s original design?
10. What happens when God’s order is abandoned by an entire society? Do you have examples from history?
11. What happened to Israel when they abandoned God’s law?
12. When Jesus said, “I came that they might have life and that more abundantly,” what did He come to restore?
13. In light of God’s truth, how much does one’s opinion, ways or preference weigh?
14. Pastor says, “Faith cannot be governed. It must come from the heart.” What does this mean?
15. Make a prediction, looking ahead to our discussion around government.

Pastor concludes, “When we live in God’s sacred order, blessings follow. When we reject it, decline is inevitable.”

1. Respond.
2. **Take the time to pray.**

Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. “We have to hold fast to God’s truth with conviction.” List steps that lead to this end.

3. Be creative: Make a list of steps some have taken to help point their neighbors back to God without condemnation or judgment.
 4. What is your part: What is required to align your home, your marriage and your priorities with His Word. Make a list. Take the first step.
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For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Genesis 1:26-28
Tuesday: 2 Timothy 4:3-4
Wednesday: Malachi 2:13-15
Thursday: Mark 10:5-9
Friday: Romans 1:28-32
Saturday: Isaiah 5:20-21
Sunday: Psalm 127:3-5

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.