



I ♥ MY CITY

Part 2 • October 26, 2025 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

THE DIVINE ORDER OF THINGS

COLOSSIANS 1:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

JEREMIAH 29:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

A CITY OUT OF ORDER

Every city from Babylon to Grants Pass reflects the heart of the people who live in it. When hearts fall out of order, cities fall out of order.

Violence, corruption, injustice, addiction, gender confusion, idolatry, rebellion, disunity, political infighting, they are not just social problems: They are spiritual disorders. **(DIS - ORDERS)**

One of the Church Fathers - Thomas Aquinas taught that everything in creation has a **telos: a divinely intended purpose or "ordered end."** When things are rightly ordered (what he called the *ordo amoris*: the order of love), they reflect God's wisdom and glory.

But when loves are disordered: When we love lesser things more and greater things less: chaos and corruption enter the world.

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*. Peace is the tranquility of order. When compassion is disordered, out of alignment, systems become broken. Example: When my back is out alignment, everything hurts.

So in a city, disorder (violence, division, greed, despair) is really a spiritual symptom of disordered love.

Example: It becomes hard when compassion or love must be applied in proper order. Life is not just about choosing between good and evil, but between where I order good with good.

PROVERBS 17:15 (ESV)

He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.

The tension between justice and injustice is a line that most of society is getting wrong right now. Hard issues that are difficult to solve without Biblical Wisdom.

Homeless vs families in the park. Veterans vs foreigners. State police budget is the same size as providing health care for immigrants. The life of the mother vs the life of the child. Answers are usually given from perspective.

Compassion on the poor is awesome, compassion on the poor while neglecting children or the safety of families is cruel.

When society shows compassion to the criminal but forgets the victim, it teaches that lawlessness is worthy of empathy and righteousness is expendable.

MATTHEW 24:12 (ESV)

¹² because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Lawlessness is disordered justice. Compassion on the trespasser or criminal is injustice to the victim. When God's order is broken, peace disappears.

But when His order is restored, peace returns, not just to a heart, but to a home, to a street, to a city!

That's why I say, I love my city!

Because God has called us to bring His divine order back into the streets where we live! If you see broken order in the community you live in, its because there's broken order in the church and families in that community.

POINT 1 – GOD CREATED GRANTS PASS WITH A DIVINE ORDER IN MIND

Before there were neighborhoods and highways, there was heavenly design. Everything God made: every tree, every street, every soul: had purpose and position. Aquinas called it "the order of things": every created thing pointing back to its Creator.

But sin flipped the order.

In our world today people love things and use people, instead of loving people and using things.

We chase pleasure instead of purpose, status instead of surrender, comfort instead of calling.

Yet God doesn't abandon cities: He sent His Son to rescue them.

Jesus walked the dusty streets of Nazareth and Jerusalem to show us how heaven walks among earth again.

He came to reorder what sin had disordered!

POINT 2 – JESUS RESTORES THE ORDER OF THINGS

When Jesus showed up, order began to return:

- He spoke to storms — and nature obeyed.
- He spoke to demons — and they fled.
- He spoke to hearts — and peace came rushing in.

He didn't just come to save souls. He came to rebuild systems, redeem communities, restore cities! He said, "The Kingdom of God is among you!" meaning: Heaven's order has invaded earth's chaos!

And now, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you, believer so that through you, God's order would touch your workplace, your school, your block, your city!

Even when tragedy strikes: Tertullian once said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." Why? Because even in persecution, the Church brings order out of chaos.

The early believers brought light to pagan cities, honor to corrupt governments, and mercy to cruel societies — not through might, but through divine alignment.

POINT 3 – THE CHURCH: GOD'S AGENTS OF ORDER

I love my city isn't a bumper sticker, it's a battle cry. It means:

- "I refuse to let darkness define my streets!"
- "I refuse to let confusion define our culture!"
- "I refuse to let despair define our people!"

I refuse by not pointing out the problems out there, I refuse by ordering my heart in here.

The Church isn't just here to have services: we're here to serve the city back into alignment with God's heart.

- When we worship, we reorder the heavens.
- When we forgive, we reorder relationships.
- When we feed the hungry, visit the lonely, and preach the gospel, we reorder the city.
- When we tell husbands to serve and lay down your life for your family, order is restored.
- When wives submit to their husbands who are laying down their life, order is restored.
- When kids honor mom and dad, order is restored.
- When families revolve their life around God and not the other stuff, order comes to the city.

Because peace comes when order is restored.

POINT 4 – THE CALL: REORDER OUR LOVE

Aquinas said the root of disorder is disordered love. When we love the wrong things first, everything else falls apart. But when we love God first — everything finds its rightful place.

Jesus said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added." That's divine order!

If you want to see your city changed — start with your heart.

Let God reorder your love.

Let Him reorder your home.

Then He'll use you to reorder your street.

Then He'll use your church to reorder your city.

POINT 5 – THE SPIRIT RESTORES THE CITY THROUGH US

City transformation doesn't begin in government halls, it begins in God's house!

When the Church gets in order, the city gets in order.

When worship is restored, order follows.

When holiness returns, peace reigns.

Billy Graham echoed this same truth about order. To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.

A.W. Tozer: When God is exalted to His proper place in our lives, a thousand problems are solved all at once.

Martin Luther King Jr.: The Church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but the conscience of the state.

Jack Hayford: When God's people walk in order and humility, the atmosphere of a city begins to shift."

Reinhard Bonnke: The Holy Spirit is not in the entertainment business: He's in the empowerment business."

I love my city — and I believe You love it more!