



NATURAL LAW, LIBERTY, AND SOVEREIGNTY

The Source and Responsibility of Liberty in a Free Society

NATURAL LAW

- "True Law is right reason in agreement with nature, it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrongdoing by its prohibitions..." ~ Cicero
- "The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it, which...teaches all mankind who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions..." ~ John Locke
- "These rights, then, which God and nature have established, and are therefore called natural rights, such as are life and liberty, need not the aid of human laws to be more effectually invested in every man than they are;...On the contrary, no human legislature has power to abridge or destroy them, unless the owner shall himself commit some act that amounts to a forfeiture." ~ William Blackstone

NATURAL LAW

- “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation...That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,...” ~ Declaration of Independence
- Natural Law creates a framework for civil society by structuring three inter-connecting elements; order, purpose, and accountability.

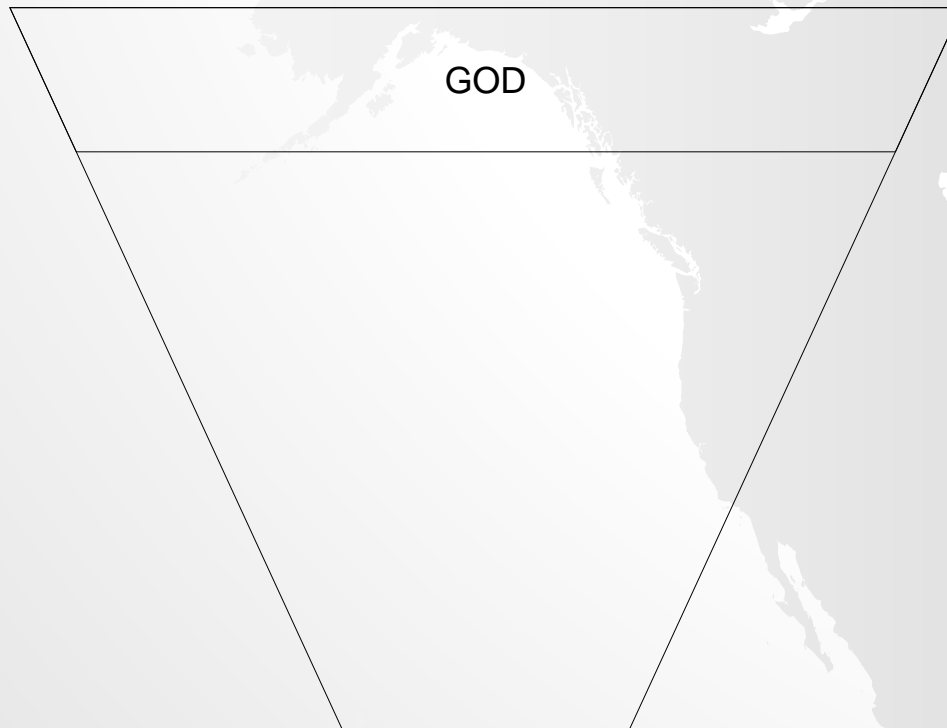
THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- The natural law pyramid provides a structured view of the principles of natural law and how they apply to civil society.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- The top of the pyramid represents the position of God in natural law.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

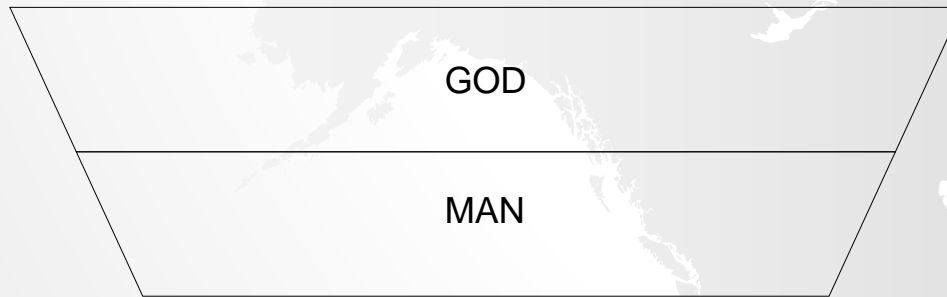
- As the author of all creation, God represents the largest and most significant portion of the natural law pyramid.



- Natural law exists as a consequence of creation, and the principles of natural law flow from God and His creation.
- As we will show, excluding God (or replacing God with secular humanism) precludes the existence of natural law, and results in instability of civil society.

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- Man is the crowning achievement of creation. Uniquely created in God's own image, man has been granted dominion over all creation by God. *

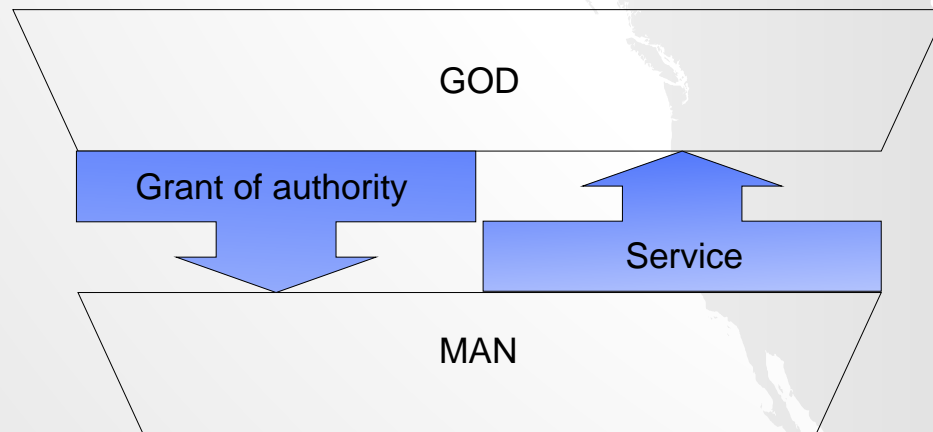


- Because man was uniquely created in God's image, man holds the second-highest position in the natural law pyramid.
- This is the first example of “order” in natural law.

** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1: 26-27 NIV)*

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- God granted man dominion over all creation, and in response to this gift, man was expected to serve God by tending to the garden in which he was placed.*
- This model of granting of authority downward and performing service in return is fundamental to the effective functioning of the natural law pyramid, and will be discussed in more detail later.
- This is the first example of “purpose” in natural law.



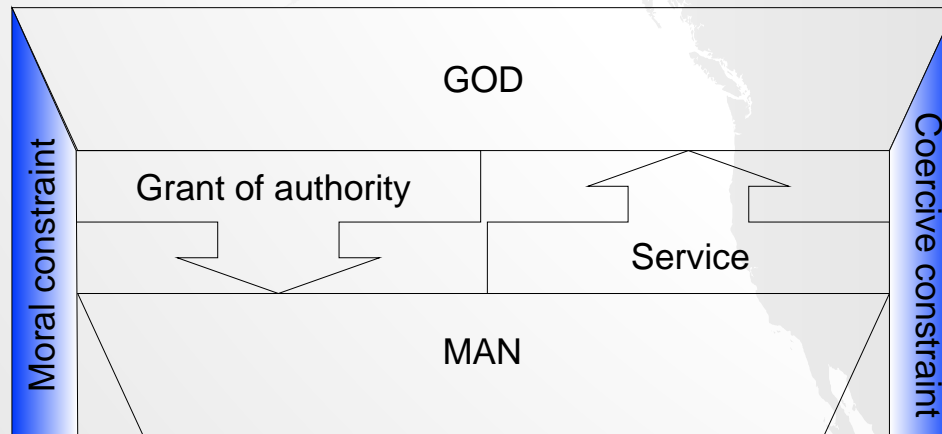
** The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:15 NIV)*

LIBERTY

- When God granted man the authority to tend the garden of Eden, He did not define how it was to be tended. God granted man the **liberty** to determine how best to tend the garden.
- Liberty is differentiated from license (freedom) in that license is exclusively the ability to do as one wills and what one has the power to do. Liberty takes into account the rights of all involved. As such, the exercise of liberty is limited by the rights of others.
- *"In the state of nature, liberty consists of being free from any superior power on Earth. People are not under the will or lawmaking authority of others but have only the law of nature for their rule. In political society, liberty consists of being under no other lawmaking power except that established by consent in the commonwealth. People are free from the dominion of any will or legal restraint apart from that enacted by their own constituted lawmaking power according to the trust put in it. Freedom is constrained by laws in both the state of nature and political society. Freedom of nature is to be under no other restraint but the law of nature. Freedom of people under government is to be under no restraint apart from standing rules to live by that are common to everyone in the society and made by the lawmaking power established in it." ~ John Locke (1632–1704)*

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

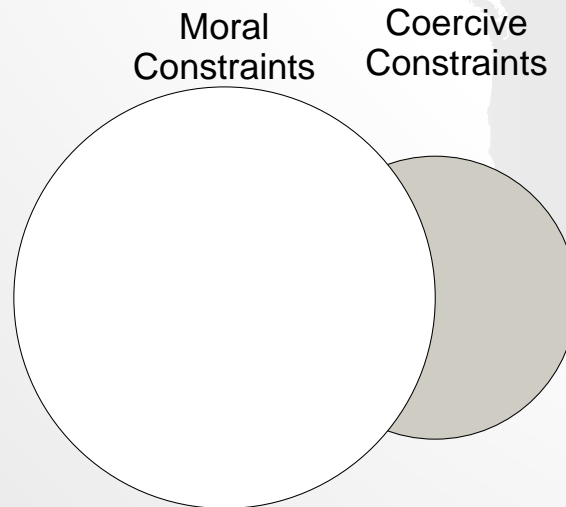
- God placed **moral constraints** on man as part of his responsibilities in the Garden of Eden.*
- At the same time, because man (as created in the image of God) included will and choice, God found it necessary to also place **coercive constraints** on man (you will certainly die).
- This is the first example of “accountability” in natural law.



* *And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 NIV)*

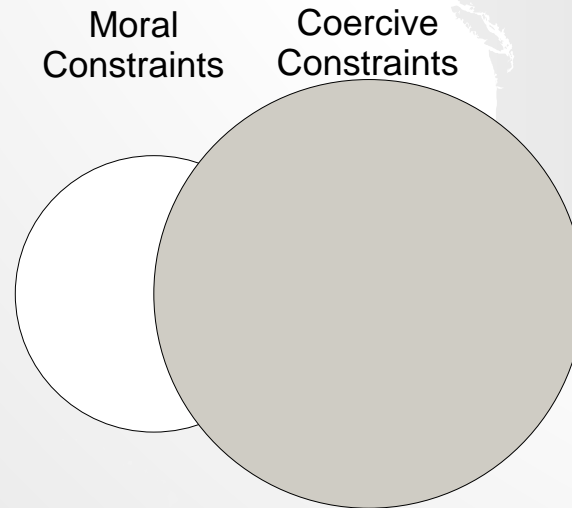
NATURAL LAW CONSTRAINTS

- There are two types of constraints that are essential to the effective functioning of natural law; moral constraints and coercive constraints.
 - Moral constraints are those where man chooses to do the right thing because of spiritual accountability.
 - Coercive constraints are those where man chooses to do the right thing because of fear of earthly punishment.
 - In a perfect situation, moral constraints are stronger, and will supersede coercive constraints



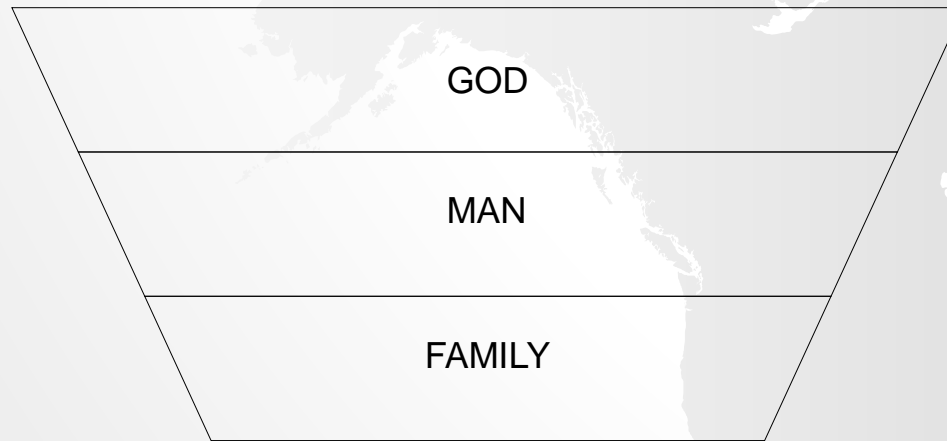
NATURAL LAW CONSTRAINTS

- Unfortunately, in a society driven by humanistic beliefs rather than spiritual beliefs, moral constraints become diminished, and coercive constraints become the motivator for doing the right thing.
- Coercive constraints in this case are only effective if one gets caught violating the law. Man then gets to choose whether the reward of violation exceeds the risk of punishment.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

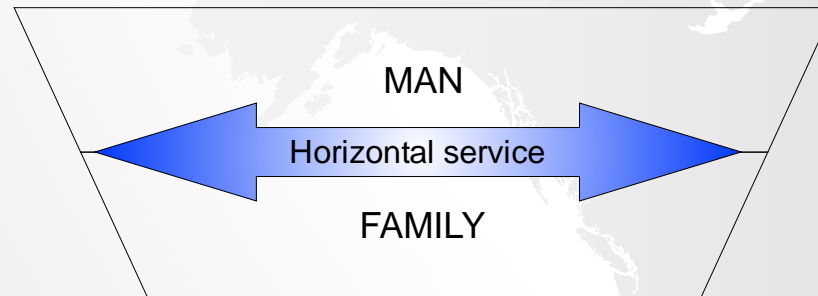
- The next structure in the natural law pyramid is the family. The family has the unique responsibilities of relationship and the raising of children. *



** But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man." (Genesis 2: 20-23 NIV)*

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

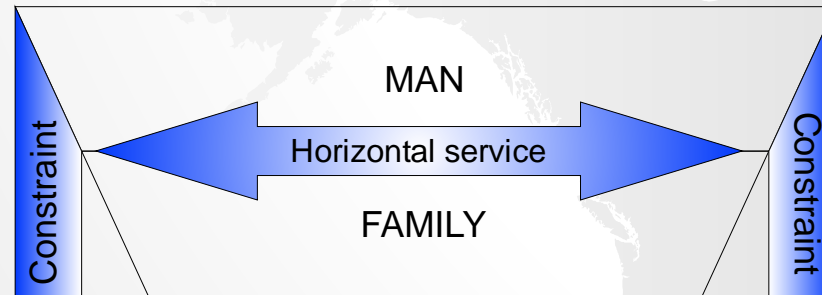
- The relationship between man and family introduces a new dimension to the natural law pyramid, horizontal service. This is based upon the first social structure, that of family.



- While the vertical relationship we saw between God and man (where God grants authority to man and in return man serves God) continues in the relationship between the individual and the family, a new horizontal relationship is also created, wherein the individual grants authority (sacrifices autonomy) to the family, and the family has a responsibility to serve all of its members.

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- The relationship between man and family also has constraints imposed upon it. Following in the natural order of relationship, these constraints would be established by the head of the family, but are more often established by consensus.

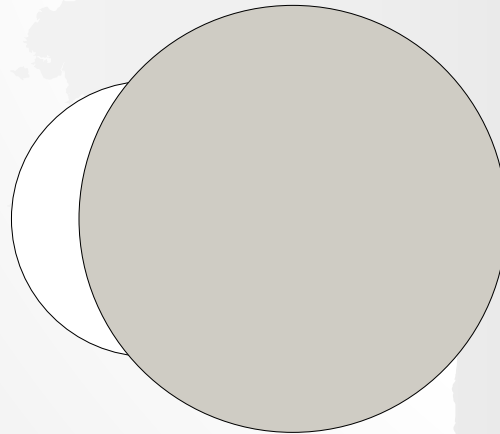


- Constraints are of both moral and coercive types, and their effects are not absolute or unchanging. As a consequence, varying levels of compliance occur, often to the detriment of relational bonds*.

** The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. (Genesis 6:5 NIV)*

THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

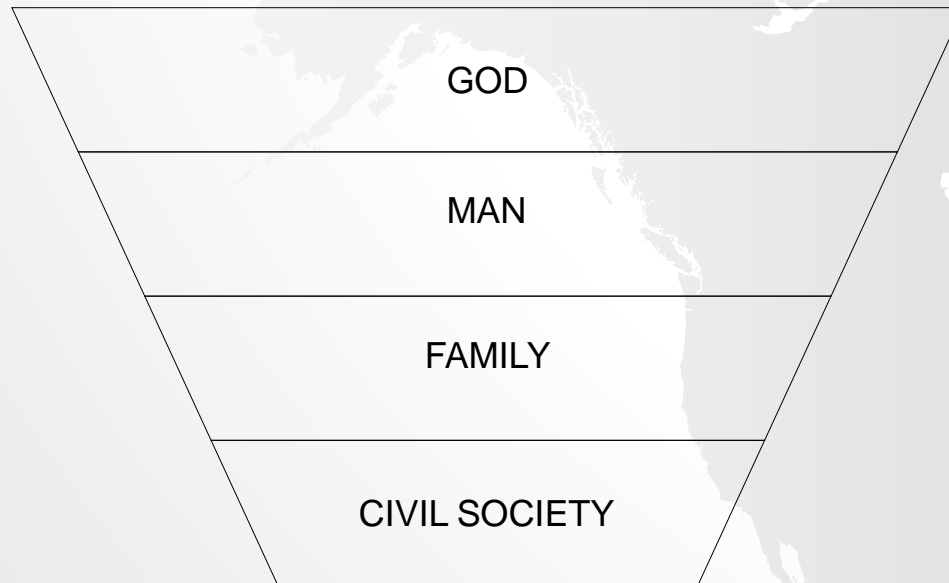
- Over time, the reduction or absence of moral constraints creates anarchy, where enforcement is no longer adequate to constrain human behavior



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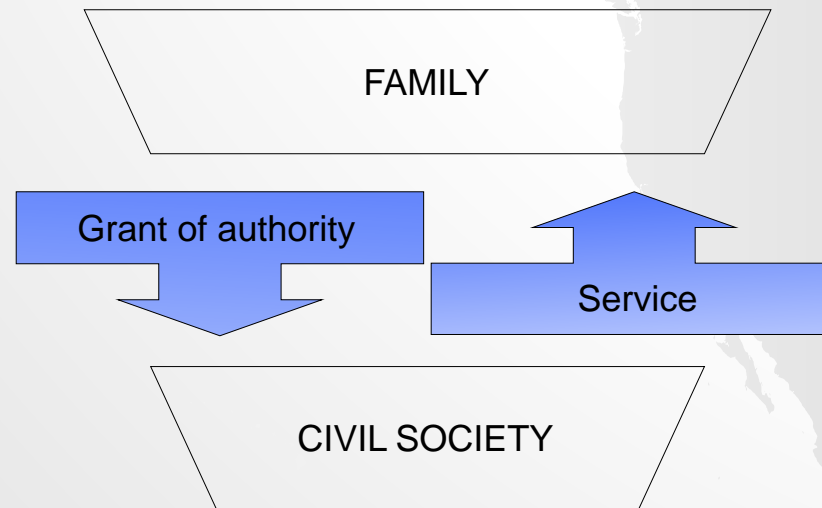
THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- The next level down in the natural law pyramid is civil society. Civil society is created when families decide to join together to provide for the common good.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- Members of families join together and sacrifice a limited amount of personal authority to the civil society to allow the civil society to provide services that are best done by a group, rather than by individuals.
- This only continues to work effectively as long as the authority-service relationship remains intact, and in the proper relationship.
- When civil society begins to exercise authority over family that has not been granted to it, the system begins to work to the detriment of the family.

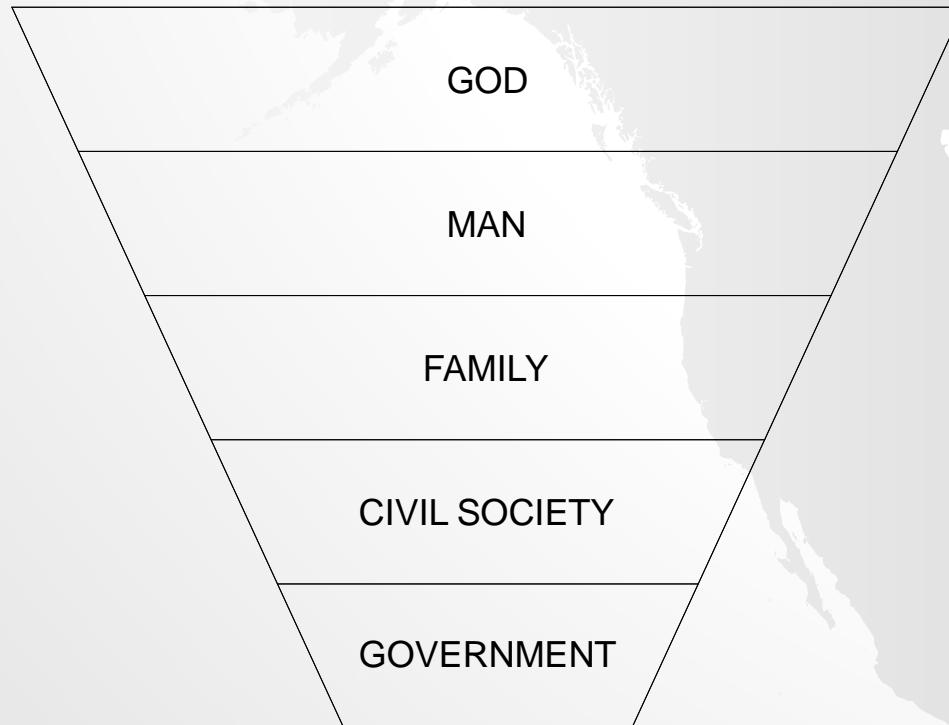


SOVEREIGNTY

- Sovereignty is understood in jurisprudence as the full right and power of a governing body to govern itself without any interference from outside sources or bodies. In political theory, sovereignty is a substantive term designating supreme authority over some polity.
 - Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty>
- Sovereignty should be clearly differentiated from granted authority in the natural law model:
 - In the case of civil society, power to act is granted, authorized, and controlled by its members. Its role is to serve its members, not rule over them. This was the original intent for the establishment of civil society.
 - If civil society were to gain sovereignty, it could act independently of the will of its members, and exert authority and power over the members. The result would be that the members would then exist to serve the civil society, a perversion of the order of natural law.

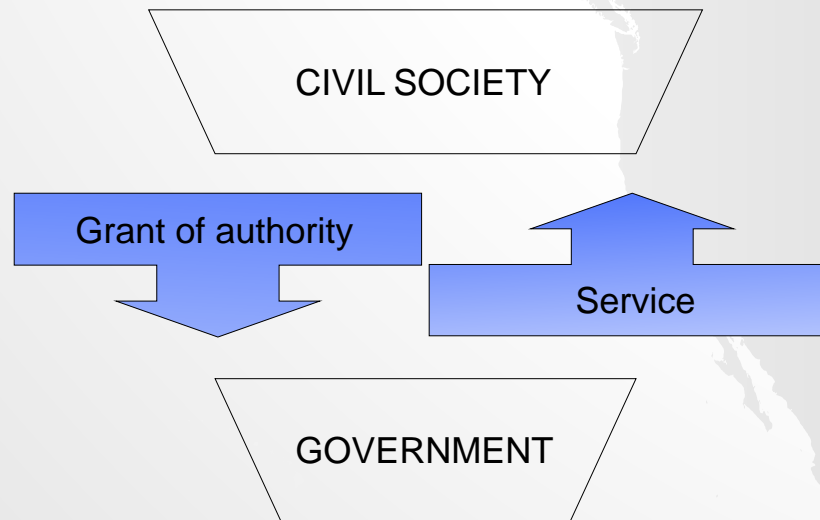
THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- The final level in the natural law pyramid is government. While natural law only extends to the individual and the family, the concepts of authority and service continue to this final level.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- In our constitution-based federal republic form of United States government, certain enumerated responsibilities have been described in the Constitution and granted to the Federal Government by the civil society (states).
- In order to make the operation of the government as effective as possible, sovereignty has been granted to the government by the people.



THE NATURAL LAW PYRAMID

- Sovereignty is associated with power, which is associated with money. The greatest risk of centralized government is its ability to act independently of the will of its members, and subsequently to exert excessive authority and power over those members. The result would be that the members would then exist to serve the government, a perversion of the order of natural law.
- The biggest risk facing members of society is the shift away from morality and the loss of understanding of the principles of natural law;
 - Moral constraints are lost and coercive constraints must increase to replace them. Respect for moral principles are lost, and actions of the individual are weighed against consequences.
 - Liberty is replaced by license, and respect for the natural rights of others is lost. Everyday wants are interpreted as rights, regardless of the impact on others.

NOW WHAT?

- Saving the republic is a daunting task. It will take considerable time, considerable effort, and considerable sacrifice. Some of the tasks required are;
 - Return to a moral foundation. A revival of faith-based morality is necessary to provide the strong foundation for the family.
 - Replacement of corrupt officials in all branches of the government with constitutionalists that will adhere to the letter and the intent of limited federalism.
 - Education and awareness of the population on the principles of natural law. Only awareness and adoption of these principles can lead to the growth of personal responsibility and the associated reduction of the dependence on the federal government.
 - Participation of a majority of citizens in the processes of civil society at the most local level.