

Chapter Nine

Managed Cooperation Theology

Theory of Salvation

Man gets to choose where he will spend eternity;
with God encouraging him to choose life.

Managed Cooperation Theology defines that salvation is a work of both God and man together. God manages and men cooperate. The Holy Spirit instructs through the Word learned. The Holy Spirit prompts men to act, and men to accept the hint to cooperate to do as He suggests. Godly men try to persuade ungodly men to cooperate with them in learning about, believing in, having faith in, and loving God. The Holy Spirit takes basic knowledge about God, techniques by Godly men, and uses them to convict, persuade and change hearts.

Since salvation is a work of both God and man together, who is involved; in what capacity? This question is answered by looking at what's involved in salvation. Salvation is the combining of God's plan, plus Justification, plus Reconciliation, plus Sanctification, plus Glorification. This means God defines His sovereignty, His authority, and His responsibilities, and He defines man's sovereignty, authority, and responsibilities. God carries out His part and asks man to cooperate with Him in doing man's part such that some men love God forever.

God's Plan

God's plan for accomplishing His wishes, is designed and set into motion by Himself. No one else is involved. I have outlined, in a Chapter Three, why God designed mankind the way He did. That is, to be capable of loving Him. He did this because man loving God is His cen-

tral purpose for the creation, and His ultimate wish. He desires fellowship with a people who will love Him forever.

Generally, salvation needed to overcome physical death, spiritual death and cause love for God. Physical death is overcome through rapture and resurrection. Spiritual death is overcome through spiritual education, belief, and faith. God loving us is seen through the creation, the incarnation, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ. Loving God is accomplished through seeing that God loves us, through His mercy and grace, and loving Him in return.

Salvation in the Period of Conscience is accomplished by man loving God through seeing the wonder of the creation, and seeing the plan of salvation in the constellations. Witnessing the great and wonderful creation should cause appreciation and love for the Great God and creator (Rom. 1:20).

Salvation in the Period of Promise and Law is accomplished *by faith* in the gladness of being able to join the family of God through the rite of circumcision. And, under the law, appreciating God for forgiving their sins *by faith* in the sacrificing of the animals. These should cause love for God (Duet. 6:5, 10:12); but did not in many people.

Salvation in the dispensation of Grace, is accomplished by both God, and godly men, working together to persuade men to love God. God asks that godly men implore each ungodly

person to cooperate with God in learning about Him. This is to provide the person with a knowledge base about God, which the Holy Spirit can use to convict the person of sin, righteousness, and judgement. Unless the ungodly person allows himself to be taught about God, he will have no knowledge of God. They will be like a blank slate or a slate with false information on it. The basic true knowledge of God must be in a person's brain in order for the Holy Spirit to convict a person of the contrast between the "good" of God and the "evil" of men. This contrast is required for the Holy Spirit to produce conviction, and thus the need for a decision of faith.

Additional cooperation is needed from men to believe in God, to have faith in Christ, to love (P) God because of God's attributes, and have eventual maturity in love (A) for God. Thus God's plan of man loving Him forever is accomplished.

The last step of God's plan is the judgement. He will take to Heaven those who love Him, and send to Hell those who do not. God is ultimately fair and just because men get to choose where they will spend eternity; with or without God.

Justification

Justification has to do with God being justified in pardoning a sinner's sin because the sinner asks for pardon based on Jesus dying on the cross in their place.

Justification in the Dispensation of Grace, is the work of God and man apart. By this I mean that Jesus Christ came to Earth and declared Himself to be God; which is truth. Man did not accept Him as God and killed Him in a most heinous way. This was God and man working not together, but against one another. But it is still a work of both God and man.

In Chapter Four, I outlined how God's plan would be implemented in three dispensations of Bible history. The periods of Conscience, Promise and Law, and Grace. We will look at Justification in all three periods. The suffering and death of Christ, the perfect sacrifice for all time,

allowed God to justify man *by faith* in the dispensations of Conscience and Promise and Law. In the Period of Grace, God justified man *through faith* (Rom. 3:30).

Justification in the Period of Conscience

Since God left it to Man's Will and Man's Work to appreciate and love God, if he did start to love God sometime in his life, God could forgive him for previously not loving Him because he changed. It is what one believes at the end of life that is important. What you believe at the end of life is the belief which you take into eternity; not whatever previous belief you had. So God is justified in taking this person to Heaven, because by faith he changed from not loving God to loving God.

He was able to change because of the witness in the stars.¹ The gospel in the stars gave the plan of salvation. That a redeemer would come to save those who would love God.

He was able to change because of the witness of the covering of the animal slain for Adam and Eve; which looked forward to Christ on the cross (Gen 3:21).

Romans 1:20 sums up the spiritual situation of this period:

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

This verse implies that because they understood through what was made, they could also do the opposite, and love God for His wonderful creation. Able, Enoch, Noah, Job and Abraham were examples of faith during this period (Job 19:25-27; Heb. 11:4, 5, 7, 8).

Justification in the Period of Promise and Law

In the dispensation of Promise and Law, you will remember, is where God's Will and Man's Work was demonstrated. In this period, justification has two components; a positive one and a nega-

1. See "The Gospel in the Stars"

tive one. The positive one involves the promises. If you do well, you get a blessing; if not neutrality. If you do evil, you get a punishment; if not neutrality.

Individuals could become a part of God's chosen people because of their faith in the promises of Abraham. They would become a part of the promises of Abraham by joining in the rite of circumcision (Gen.17). *By faith* the people allowed themselves and their families to be circumcised, which caused them to become part of the blessings which God promised to Abraham. This means that they were a part of the blessing of Abraham, under which, God would justify and declare them righteous. Therefore, people circumcised were declared righteous *by faith* in the doing. Ryrie suggests that since God is holy and righteous, the only way God could declare a sinner righteous is apart from the law.² The act of circumcision qualifies.

Through circumcision, *by faith*, people were a part of God's family which gave them a status, under which, they were free to appreciate and love God.

Under the Law, you will remember, is the negative side of Promise and Law. Under the Law, forgiveness of sins was available *by faith* in performing the required sacrifices. If sacrifices were performed, they were temporary payment to roll forward the sins until Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, would take away their sins permanently. Having their sins forgiven, took away the guilt of sins committed. This left them free to face God and love Him for forgiving their sins.

Faith in God got people to do what God wanted; so obedience removed the need for punishment. Therefore, God was "justified" in forgiving sins and still have people love Him.

Justification in the Period of Grace

In the Period of Grace, the period of God's Will and God's Work, the Father sacrificed His Son to demonstrate that God loves man. His horrible torture and excruciating agony at the

hands of evil man is the ultimate testimony of love. Because Jesus could have called down twelve legions of angels to destroy all the living and didn't, demonstrates His love for man (John 15:13). Instead, He prayed for the Father to forgive them.

Since Jesus' is the Son of God in the flesh, and God come in the flesh with respect to His deity, this sacrifice is so overwhelmingly magnanimous, there is nothing God could do that was greater to demonstrate His love. It was a gesture of such infinite proportions, that if it were to get people to love Him forever, it would justify forgiving their previous sin. We love Him because He first loved us. Because the objective is to have a people who would love Him forever. Therefore, God is justified in forgiving sins because it allows removal of guilt and produces love in some men for God.

My sin and inability to properly manage my own life, contrasted with His goodness, with the Holy Spirit's conviction, tells me I need Him to manage my life. With His Lordship, which is Him managing my life, I gradually begin to think like God. With some practice doing Godly acts and the Holy Spirit's leading, I obey and appreciate God in my life. This is what God wants to accomplish in our lives; growing love for Him, such that we will love Him forever.

When we love Jesus voluntarily, God's *need* for punishment disappears. Therefore, He can freely *justify* forgiving our sins. Since we changed, He can still accomplish His goal of obtaining a people who will love Him forever. Therefore, He is pleased.

Reconciliation

Ungers bible dictionary defines reconciliation:

"When an individual heart sees and trusts in the value of Christ's atoning death, he becomes reconciled to God, hostility is removed, friendship and fellowship eventuate."³

Reconciliation is a work of God and man

2. Basic Theology, p.299, 3rd para.

3. Unger's Bible Dictionary, p.914.

together. It starts by opening oneself to God and godly principles not yet known.

This is very difficult for one who has not previously been exposed to godly concepts. It involves allowing another to tell you what truth really is about; and deciding later if its true. People don't want to be told what to believe. They don't because they think they know already.

School age children seem to do better at this because they are used to teachers telling them what is "truth." Adults tend to be more closed.

Openness to God is so essential that man cannot be reconciled to God without this openness to Godly principles. If one is open, then over time, one can learn more and more until some quantity of Godly knowledge exists in one's brain. In the beginning, a person just listens without believing or disbelieving. It is not until enough truth is accumulated, that one can see an emerging contrast between the "goodness" of God and the "evil" which is in men's mind and heart (spirit).

At the same time as godly knowledge is accumulated, one must come to believe that he is a sinner. This is done by seeing the contrast between the "good" of God and the "evil" of men, specifically the evil of ones self. This requires being honest with ones self. Lying to yourself is the worst kind of deception.

In our evangelistic efforts, we have sadly neglected telling people of the importance of openness to God and His principles. Openness and cooperation is the first step toward reconciliation.

Godly men have been given the ministry of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:18-20). That is to witness, be a friend, preach to, study with, coach and all other forms of help we can devise, to bring people to grow in their spiritual life. This growth should lead to faith, that is, acting on this belief.

Jesus started this process by asking His twelve to follow Him. Men constrained by the love of God have been doing the same since (II Cor. 5:14-15).

Men constrained by the love of God are

believers who are spiritual descendents of those taught by Jesus. These men cooperate with God to lead other men to Christ and love for God.

Faith in the Period of Grace

We have shown earlier that God has made man sovereign over the self. This was necessary for man to have the capacity to love; and the capacity to choose; such that he can be held responsible, by God, for his own actions.

"The Natural Man's Initial Cooperation"

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). The first thing an ungodly person needs to hear is the concept of God, and His system of things. He must have some truth to believe.

In order for a person to listen, to hear about God, they must be open to listening or reading. Since God has allowed man sovereignty over his own life, this is man's part. Man is in control of whether or not he will listen and hear; not God. God will not violate the sovereignty of man to force man to listen in order to hear. If He did, this would not be loving, and would therefore, compromise God's holiness. Many don't hear because they are "dull" of hearing; not really listening intently (Is. 6:10; Matt. 13:15).

There are all kinds of reasons why men don't listen. Many people don't listen because of self-sufficiency. They don't need God. Many people don't listen because they don't think God is relevant in the society. And they don't want to waste their time. Most reasons for not listening have to do with demons working in peoples lives. The main problem to belief is getting people to listen, in order to hear. To listen one must be open to finding truth. If one assumes he has the truth already, he is fooling himself. He will not be open. Jesus said it is not the healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners (Mark 2:17).

What christians need to do is *pray that God the Holy Spirit will break the demonic bonds which prevent the Natural Man from listening.*

Contrary to the belief of many, the Holy Spirit will influence but not to the degree of insuring ones salvation or preventing ones salvation.⁴

On the other hand personal sin, family troubles, sickness, cancer, accidents; sin in general tends to make some people come to the end of themselves. They may need someone like the God of the Universe in their life to solve their problems. These may listen and hear (Matt. 13:16; Rom. 11:8). And, you and I must tell them of God and His wonder.

Other individuals may be against God. God says don't caste your pearls before swine (Matt. 7:6). These may never open themselves to Godly concepts. If they don't, they pay the price.

For any and all of these, you can pray that God will soften their heart. This is the first opportunity for God and godly men to work together in a potential believer's life. That is; we pray for them (Matt. 5:44). We pray that God might rebuke the evil one to open their eyes and ears (Lk. 10:17; Rom 10:1).

Many times christians expect to much from the Natural Man. Belief and faith are big steps in a persons life. It means abandoning much of what one has thought of as normal, right and ok.

Love and encourage the potential christian. Do not judge the persons past; it might be forgiven. Just help the person walk in whatever "light" he will accept (I Jn. 1:7). Tell him what God has done for you.

"Belief"

Belief is the intellectual acceptance of certain facts concerning God. As one allows himself to be exposed to God's "light," the Holy Spirit will demonstrate the contrast between the "good" of God, and the "evil" of the world and of his own heart. This contrast is what tells him that he wants God's blessings and doesn't want Hell.

The following are the basics that one must accept. They may not be accepted all at one time. In fact, they will probably be accepted

over time. But they all must be accepted to be regenerated (born again) by the Holy Spirit.

- * That God exists - Gen. 1:1, 26
- * That God rewards those that diligently seek Him - Heb. 11:6
- * That God loves you - John 3:16
- * That God wants to have a personal relationship with you - John 17:3, See Chapter One
- * That God will take to Heaven those that love Him - I Thess. 4:16-17
- * That God will banish to Hell those who do not love Him - Matt. 10:28
- * That man is separated from God - Hebrews 7:26, See Chapter Three, Man's Separation from God
- * That man is his own boss - Proverbs 14:12, See Chapter Three, Sovereignty
- * That man is a sinner - Romans 3:23, See Chapter Three, Man's Sovereignty and his Fallen Nature
- * That Jesus Christ is the only provision for love and fellowship with God - John 14:6, Romans 5:8
- * That Jesus died on the cross to provide forgiveness of my sins - Matt. 26:28
- * That we must individually accept Jesus Christ as savior of our soul - John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10
- * That we must turn away from our sinful ways and embrace God's ways - Acts 17:30
- * That we need God's management of our life - Rev. 3:17-18
- * That we must individually accept God as manager of our life - Proverbs 3:5-6, Jesus asked His disciples to *follow* Him
- * That our job is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else will be added unto us; by God's excellent management of our life - Matt.6:33, Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Rev. 3:20). This means everyone, not just the elect.

The opening of the door is the opening of the door of your heart. God only requires that

4. See Chapter Five, Three Possible Theologies

you cooperate with Him. If you will go two steps with Him, He will go three steps with you.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him” (Psalm 34:8).

The things above are what a man must believe. After becoming aware of these things, a man must cooperate with the prompting of the Holy Spirit to *act* upon this knowledge.

“Faith”

Faith is believing those facts to the degree, that you will act on that belief. Your first act of faith may be to thank Jesus for forgiving your sin and express your intention to follow Him. It could go something like this:

Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross to forgive my sins. I open the door of my life and accept You as my savior and Lord. Thank you for giving me the promise of eternal life. Take control of my life make me successful and make me the kind of person You want me to be.

The second step of faith is to be baptized (Acts 2:38). It is the confirmation of your confession of faith; believing and acting on that belief. It is the first thing Jesus did (Lk. 3:21).

Being *baptized* based on ones confession of faith will certainly make God take notice (Lk. 15:10).

It is a start. From then on, it is one issue of faith after another to deal with. It is God’s job to care for you. It is your job, as a beginning believer to cooperate with Him in doing what He asks. Doing what He asks *first* is what it means to cooperate.

One of the biggest problems for an individual to overcome is doing your own thing. You must allow God to cultivate dependence on Him in your life. That is the meaning of cooperation. Since we have managed our own life for so many years, it is hard to give that up.

In reality, first we give God management of our life for awhile, then we take it back. We catch our selves doing our own thing, and we

give Him back management. We have to consciously practice dependence. We have to consciously practice just doing *our* job; seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Let God do his job of making our life full and successful.

As a person of faith, God has a whole curriculum of lessons to be learned. These lessons are given in II Peter 1:1-11. He also tells you why you should learn them. These lessons help God change you from having an “evil” nature to having a “good” nature; like God’s nature. Peter calls God’s nature the “divine nature.”

The objective of allowing yourself to be changed (to cooperate) is so that when we get to Heaven we will be enough like God that we are compatible with Him. Its like a married couple, they need to be compatible with each other to have a happy marriage. We need to be compatible with God to have a happy relationship in Heaven.

The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and good conscience and a sincere faith (I Tim. 1:5).

If we just take responsibility for doing what He asks, the Holy Spirit will accomplish the changing of our heart to the divine nature.

Managed Cooperation today, is similar to following Jesus in His day. You walk with Him from day to day, and you do what He asks as if He were standing beside you; telling you in person. Only instead of Him telling you directly, the Holy Spirit tells you from knowing the Word.

God does the management, we just follow Jesus. He is responsible for our success.

This is Managed Cooperation Theology where the rubber meets the road.

“*Knowing*” is acting in faith for a long enough time, that God feeds back to you confirmation of the truth of your faith. The confirmation usually comes in the form of God doing unusual things over and over again. Things like, in the case of a poor man, praying for bread, God providing money from where none is expected.

When this kind of thing happens over and over again, God becomes real by experience. Just like the little kid who burned his fingers.

One of the great joys of the christian life is seeing God's hand. Seeing God's hand is the confirmation that He is alive and working in your life; and knows you personally. It demonstrates that God is real. We need that confirmation.

Sanctification

Sanctification is the process of God setting you apart from the world. The difference between the man of the world and the man of God is the character of one's nature or spirit. The nature of man growing into the nature of God; or the divine nature.

The fact that man has the capacity to make choices, coupled with limited knowledge and weak character; and much influence by Satan, gives mankind thought patterns different than God's. It is the same way between any two people.

My wife and I have different experiences, and we make different choices; sometimes in response to the same question! How we feel and what we know about a question affects our choice of responses. And the sum of those thoughts, determine our responses about that subject. Its the same with everybody.

God's thoughts are "good," and man's opposing thoughts are "evil." And man, by faith, would have to buy into that idea by seeing the contrast between the good of God's thoughts and the evil of man's opposing thoughts. Hence, a man must be open to becoming acquainted with God's thoughts and actions to see love, grace, mercy and all the other fruit of God's spirit. This is especially true in going on with God. We must continue to cooperate with God in faith to be changed (sanctified).

Sanctification is accomplished by both God and man working together. A new believer progresses from confession of sins and beginning faith, to acting in faith on a regular basis, to dependence on God, through perseverance, to loving Him for His great management of your

life.

The christian education curriculum is given in II Peter 1:3-8. Sanctification is learning and practicing what these words mean. The setting apart (sanctification) gradually happens as one gives up old ungodly practices and habits, and incorporates new godly practices and habits into ones life.

This is what Romans 7:14-25 is all about. A decision has been made to be holy in your life but your actions continue to sin against God. The old practices and habits continue to dominate your life. What to do! You cannot defeat these old practices and habits on your own.

This process is not possible without God's help. You must decide you *want* to change. You must also conclude you cannot do so by yourself. If you think you can, you may try. Maybe you will be successful. If so, more power to you. But I am talking about things not easily changed like smoking or illicit sex. Usually people need help with these type changes.

"Romans Chapters Six, Seven and Eight"

Ok, so you want to change. What this does *not* mean. It does not mean I *should* change. It means your serious about really changing. Ask Jesus to change you. Then you must believe, by faith, that He *has* already changed you (Rom. 6:11-14). The scripture says He will, and you must believe He has already (Rom. 6:17-22).

Here is a way to think of it. You have been a slave to sin all your life. Through faith God has freed you from it. Now all you have to do is stop sinning.

The analogy is that it is like you have been in jail all your life. The door has been locked the whole time. In the past, you have banged on the door, you have shook it but it did not budge. You have tried many times to force it open.

God came in last night, while you were asleep, and unlocked your cell door but left it closed. You are free to go. All you have to do is push the door open and leave.

Since the door is still shut, it is hard to think of yourself as free. God told you the door is unlocked so through faith in Christ, you must

push the door open. If you will push it open, you will discover you are free. But you must push it open.

If you don't push the door open, even though it is unlocked, you will still not be free. Your faith in the door being locked keeps you from pushing on the door. Thus, you stay put. Therefore, to be free, you must believe God and push the door open.

In the same way God has freed you from the power of sin which you have been under all your life. This time when you try to stop sinning, asking Jesus to take temptation away, He will do so. You are free in Him. For you to be free indeed, requires your cooperation; decide to believe God and stop sinning.

Your next step is cooperate with Him in making the change happen, in fact. That is, when the point of temptation occurs, you pray; Jesus save me from the temptation. And He will. This may only last for five minutes and temptation may appear again. You ask again. You keep asking as many times as takes to overcome.

After some time of standing up to lust, pride or the world, the demons will leave you alone. The practice or habit will be changed. The principle is, you flee to Jesus every time you need to overcome a situation (James 4:7). Your experience with God continues.

After God feeds back to the person of faith certain experiences that show God's hand, the person of faith gradually becomes a "knower." Just like the little kid who burned his fingers, this person knows God is real. He has experienced God by faith. This is what is lacking in our churches today; seeing God.

Seeing God brings reality to christianity. People who see God are excited, vibrant and active.

At this time in christian history, in North America, not many people are seeing God.

"Loving God in the Period of Grace"

Having some degree of God's perspective allows the Holy Spirit to show the person the contrast between the good of God and the evil of

men. The contrast brings the perspective that God is better than men. Further, that the individual would rather spend eternity with God in Heaven, than with men in Hell. Who wouldn't?

We see the evil of men's hearts everywhere today but we don't see much of the good of God's thoughts and ways. Most people don't recognize God's hand in their lives; they just see lucky and unlucky circumstances. So, they give God no credit or appreciation. Some godly person must explain that truth, or the person will go on "in darkness."

Seeing the good of God only comes from observing Jesus of Nazareth. He is the one true and living God's *only* Son, and Savior of the world. The only path to the Father. He is the only path because there is only one Son of God. He demonstrated the ultimate love of God.

He, being God in the flesh, did not destroy man when men crucified Him. *That shows love in the face of cruelty* (Rom. 5:8). He loved man by offering eternal life and forgiveness of sins; that is, forgiveness of man's evil thoughts and actions.

All that a man needs do is open himself to God's thoughts and ways. If he allows himself to experience some of God's thoughts and ways, he will see that they are "good." Seeing the contrast between the "good" of God and the "evil" of men, as convicted by the Holy Spirit, will persuade men that Jesus can direct a life better than the self. Therefore, a man will give management of his own life to Jesus, and cooperate with Jesus in changing his own life.

Since God's love for man is so overwhelming, over time, that man has a reason to love God in return. When we see that His leadership is best, we will begin to appreciate him. As we continue to appreciate Him, we will begin to return His love. Over time, this way God is assured of permanent love by us, and we get eternal life and fellowship with Him.

Knowing God's plan while recognizing ones own depravity, causes one to realize the need for the direction of Jesus Christ in ones own life. Thus, that person will be spared Hell, gain future Heaven, and gain a loving Father who will man-

age their life, and meet their every need now.

After creation, you will remember that Satan influenced Adam and Eve. He deceived them into believing they could be like God if they would just listen to Satan and be independent from God (Gen. 3:5). But the truth is, we become like God when we copy Jesus (God); not when we are independent from Him. This is the very essence of my message; copy Jesus.

To this day, Satan still promises people they can be master of their own fate (independent from Him). And we observe that everyone is sovereign over his own life.⁵ But loving God requires giving Him back sovereignty over one's own life (lordship). *Which means that I will obey because I know it's in my best interest.*

For man to give God the responsibility of managing one's own life, one must see the *need* to give the control back to God. So God left man alone to wallow in the consequences of his own bad decisions. Why did God do that? So that when man came to see the lousy situation he found himself in (sin); and by conviction of the Holy Spirit, compared that to the much better situation with God directing his life (righteousness), man would see a difference. *It is that contrast which brings the perspective that I want God to manage my life.*

Glorification

Glorification is a work of Jesus alone. He performs the work of Glorification on us who have believed. Our bodies will be changed:

“But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘DEATH IS SWALLOWED IN VICTORY’” (I Cor. 15:54).

Glorification is the act of presenting us to

His Father, showing us our new home and giving us gifts. We, the bride, are introduced to the wondrous things Jesus has spent 2000 years preparing for all who love Him.

In this life, He decides who is faithful and who is not. He has the help of angels to clear the fence between good and evil. His decisions are just and final.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Rev. 22:13). With the process of salvation, it is no different.

5. Being sovereign over one's own life means that I am the who decides what I will think, say and do. In other words, there is no other higher authority which compels my thoughts and actions. If I obey any higher authority, it is ultimately because I want to and not because of the authority. See Chapter Three, Sovereignty.

