

The Biblical-Principle Approach Homeschool Experience™

Module 4

The Biblical-Principle Approach Principles of Liberty

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Natural Law: Basis 1

It's important for us to understand and know the foundations for God's principles of liberty. As we teach these roots to our children, they will learn that one was there from the beginning and the other came later. I think of them like two witnesses establishing a testimony of Creator God.

The two basis are:

- 1. Natural Law;
- 2. Revealed Law

As we teach our children, it's important to point these things out along with principles. This doesn't mean that we need to tie them into every lesson. But, decide when you'd like to help your children to think it through.



"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

-Romans 1:20 (KJV)

Have you ever considered that Adam and Eve didn't have a copy of the Scriptures? The Scriptures hadn't been written that early on in history. However, they did have a direct relationship with God in the Garden of Eden. Additionally, they had God's Natural Law (His Creation).

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses. So, what did people have all those many years before that? They also had Natural Law from which to learn about God's character and Nature.

Assignment 1: Research the following Scriptures, reason what you learn about God's character and nature from these passages and write down your reasoning.

Job 12:7-10

- 1. What do the beasts of the earth teach you? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Natural Law: Basis 1

Assignment 1: Research the following Scriptures, reason what you learn about God's character and nature from these passages and write down your reasoning.

Job 12:7-10

2. What do the birds of the air teach you? _____

3. What does the earth teach you? _____

4. What do the fish of the sea declare to you? _____

Literally, everywhere we look in God's Creation, we see His sovereignty and His providence. How can you help your children to see this in the lesson plans that you create for them?

Let us know in the community about your "ah-ha" moments, what inspires you, what gives you clarity in this lesson, or how you see this layer adding to how you'll develop lesson plans.

Natural Law: Basis 1

Here are some examples to help you get the ball rolling.

A lot of it has to do with allowing ourselves to wonder about God's Creation. It's kind of like going back to being a child and being amazed at the world around us and being curious, observing, asking questions, and giving things some thought. Sometimes, we may be inspired by the wonder our children express about what they observe.

Assignment 1: Research the following Scriptures, reason what you learn about God's character and nature from these passages and write down your reasoning.

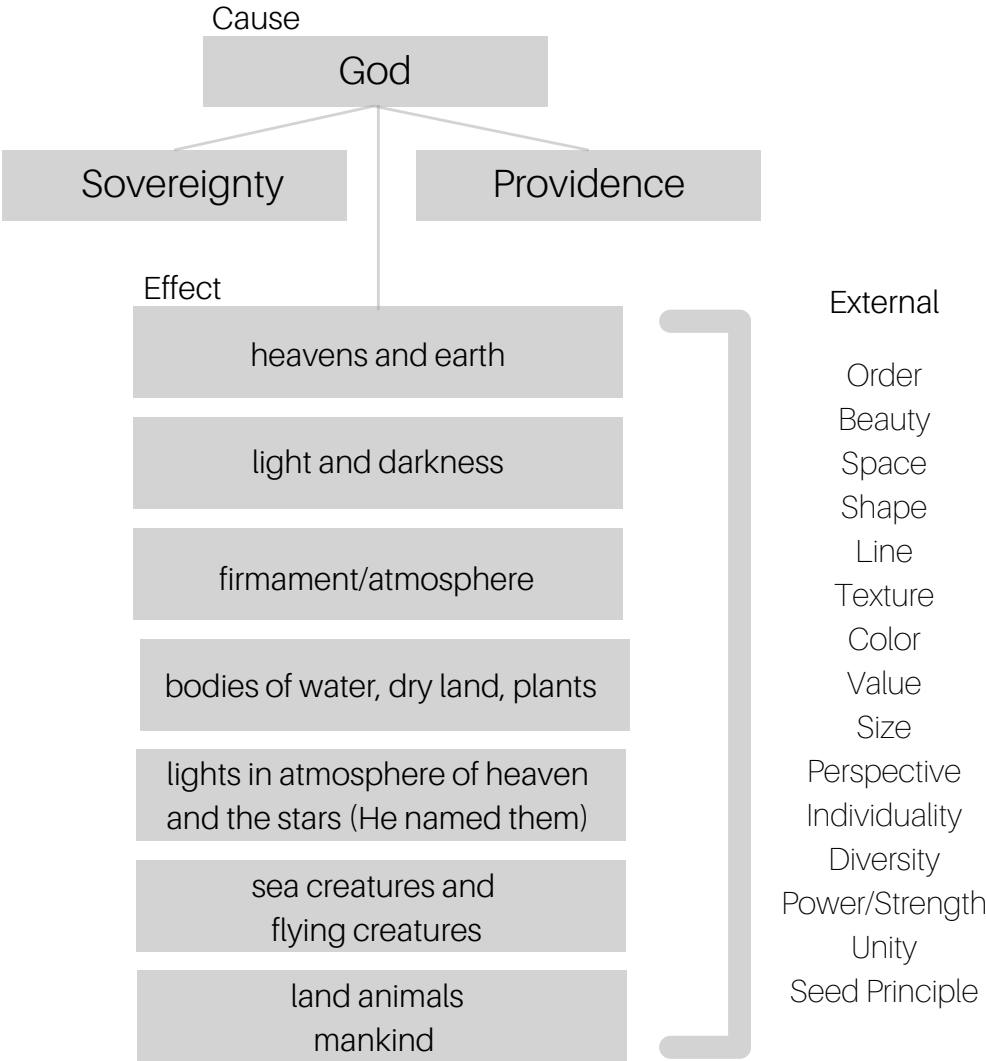
Job 12:7-10

1. What do the beasts of the earth teach you? *Beasts like elephants, hippos, rhinos, and lions have a lot of power and strength. They teach me that our Creator God is powerful and strong.*
2. What do the birds of the air teach you? *The birds of the air teach me that they can trust the wind they can't see to carry them. This makes me think of how I can't see God, but I can trust Him to carry me--to lift me up and sustain me.*
3. What does the earth teach you? *The earth is full of life sustaining things that are created by God. It teaches me that God cares and provides for all of His creation.*
4. What do the fish of the sea declare to you? *The fish of the sea are pretty much out of sight. So, they can easily be out of mind. But, God sees everything going on under the surface when I can't see it. They teach me that God cares about the things we aren't aware of or don't think about.*

Natural Law: Basis 1

With our children under our care and provision, we are able to teach them about the external evidences of God in His Creation. An orderly way to do this is by following the order of the Days of Creation.

Natural Law/External Evidence



Revealed Law: Basis 2

As time marched onward, mankind could (and can) still learn about God from Natural Law. But, Natural Law isn't enough for us to learn about Him. Therefore, mankind was eventually given Revealed Law (Scripture).

Revealed Law helps us to understand about sin and the need for a Savior, beliefs, conscience, morals, principles to live by, etc.

Assignment 1: Research the following passages of Scripture and explain in your own words why God has given us His Scriptures.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 _____

2. Romans 15:4 _____

3. Romans 10:17 _____

4. Psalm 119:105 _____

Revealed Law: Basis 2

5. Psalm 19:7-11 _____

6. Matthew 4:4 _____

7. Psalm 119:9 _____

8. John 17:17 _____

There are many Bible verses that tell us the importance of having the Scriptures and learning from them.

Together, with Natural Law and Revealed Law, we learn about God and worldview.

Notes: _____

Let us know in the community about your "ah-ha" moments, what inspires you, what gives you clarity in this lesson, or how you see this layer adding to how you'll develop lesson plans.

Natural Law: Basis 1

EXAMPLE

Honor System: Please only use this if you think that you need it to help you get the ball rolling. I don't want my answers to interfere with your independent reasoning.

Revealed Law: Basis 2

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Revealed Law helps us to understand about sin and the need for a Savior, beliefs, conscience, morals, principles to live by, etc.

Assignment 1: Research the following passages of Scripture and explain in your own words why God has given us His Scriptures.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and given to us for right living (righteous living.)

2. Romans 15:4 All Scripture is history for us to learn from and to offer us examples of endurance so that we may be encouraged and to give us hope.

3. Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing God's Word about Jesus Christ.

4. Psalm 119:105 God's Word lights our path so that we don't stumble in the darkness.

Revealed Law: Basis 2

5. Psalm 19:7-11 God's law teaches me about God, it refreshes me, gives someone like me wisdom, it give me joy, helps me to see truth, causes me to fear the Lord, teaches me righteous living, I treasure it above all else, there is reward in keeping it.

6. Matthew 4:4 Food nourishes my body but that isn't enough for me to have life. Nothing but God's Word will nourish my soul.

7. Psalm 119:9 When I live according to God's Word, I can stay on the path of purity.

8. John 17:17 God's Word is truth and it alone is what sanctifies me.

There are many Bible verses that tell us the importance of having the Scriptures and learning from them.

Together, with Natural Law and Revealed Law, we learn about God and worldview.

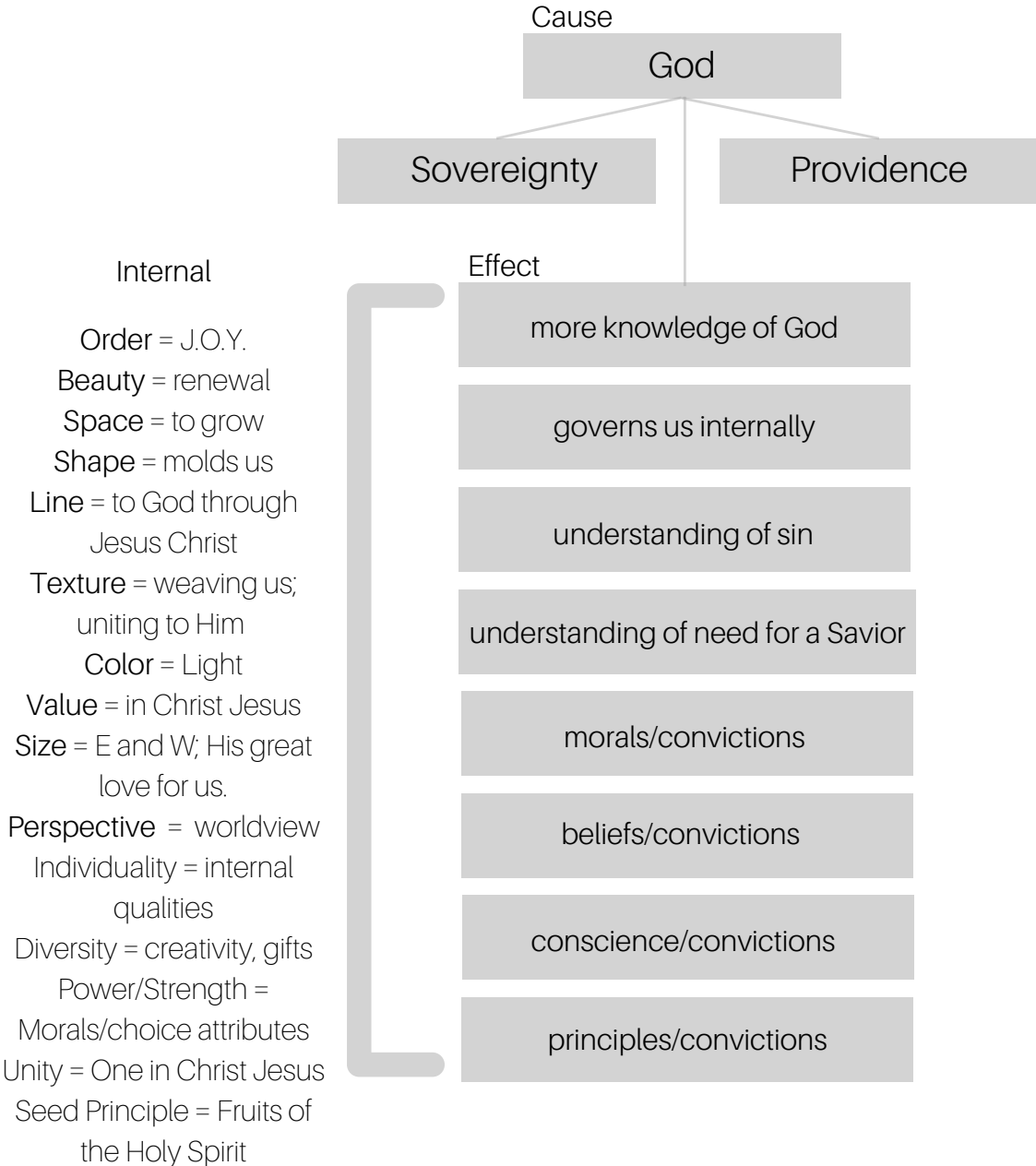
Notes:

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Revealed Law: Basis 1

With our children under our care and provision, we are able to teach them about the internal evidences of God in His Word.

Revealed Law/Internal Evidence



The Principles of Liberty

To review our previous two lessons in the module:

- Natural Law is external. It teaches us about God's attributes (His character and nature) and it governs externally.
- Revealed Law is internal. It teaches us more about God's attributes and governs internally.

We witness the seven basic principles of America's form of government in both Natural Law and in Revealed Law.

The principles of America's form of government are Principles of Liberty because they are a part of God's character and nature. That said, they are identified differently directly from Scripture. Credit goes to Ben Gilmore for wording the principles the following way from God's Word:

- Principle of Individuality
- Self-government
- Quality character
- Private Property
- Biblical Form of Government
- Local Authority
- Liberty

With this wording, individuals may understand how God's principles of liberty are directly in the Bible and that they may indeed apply to the individual and *any* nation.

That said, we can see how Rosalie J. Slater saw these principles and worded them directly to relate to America. This makes sense considering she was American and she saw the need to restore America to her first Biblical principles. In *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History* on pages 113-136, Rosalie identifies the seven basic Principles of Liberty as:

- God's Principle of Individuality
- The Christian Principle of Self-Government
- America's Heritage of Christian Character
- "Conscience is the Most Sacred of All Property"
- The Christian Form of Our Government
- How the Seed of Local Self-Government is Planted
- The American Christian Political Union

The Principles of Liberty

After being inspired by Ben Gilmore's wording for the 7 Principles of Liberty, I wanted to set out on my own to find them in Scripture. So, I decided to start in Genesis because it made sense to me that I'd find them "In the Beginning".

This is something I set out to do because people would ask me questions like: "Where is America in the Bible?" or "Where is America's Political Union found in the Bible?" or "Where is 'America's Heritage of Christian Character' found in the Bible?" Ben's wording of the principles was a breakthrough for me. They were the keys to help me look for them in Scripture because his wording is more of a "general truth"—which applies to all people and all nations.

As I read through Genesis 1 and 2, I asked myself:

- Where do I see God's seven Principles of Liberty?
- Where do I see that God sets the expectations that man honors/applies those principles?
- How do I see that man has honored or dishonored those principles?
- What is the cause to effect that I see in either case?
- Where do I witness this in Natural Law and Revealed Law?

Let's walk through this together from Genesis 1 and 2 so that you may see it, too.

God's Principle of Individuality (which includes Unity with Diversity) *within* the natural order God has created:

1. God is individual—unique, separate, a distinct existence from His own creation.
2. Animals are unique, a distinct existence from mankind.
3. God created male and female— they're unique from each other with their own functions and roles. There are unifying elements, if you will, among the human race. But, we also see diversity among each of us.

Application of the Principles of Liberty:

1. Adam and Eve were to honor God's individuality as sovereign King, themselves, each other in the way that God created them as male and female (Adam head over his wife, her his helpmate).
2. We know from Revealed Law that Adam and Eve were to have quality character. We know from Natural Law that animals can't have quality character.
3. Revealed Law teaches us that Adam and Eve were to practice self-government. We know from Natural Law that animals don't have the capability to practice self-government.
4. We know from Revealed Law that Adam and Eve were to honor God's private property—it was His Garden. He produced it, so He's the rightful owner of His creation. They were to follow His laws/ boundaries regarding His private property. Natural Law teaches us that animals (and even plants)

The Principles of Liberty

don't have the capability to honor private property.

5. We see in Natural Law that animals and plants don't have a "Biblical form of government" and this is because they aren't made in God's image. They don't have God over them as sovereign King like people do. They don't have a family government, which we see in God's design. We learn these truths from Revealed Law as well. Family is the first sphere of government.

6. We know from Natural Law that animals and plants don't have local authority—they don't have dominion and they don't subdue the earth. We know from Revealed Law that God gave Adam local authority to name the animals. We know that God told them to have dominion and to subdue the earth.

7. Natural Law shows us that mankind can walk in internal liberty with an outworking (animals and plants don't have this capability). We witness in Natural Law that mankind does have this ability. We also know these truths from Revealed Law. Adam and Eve were to walk in liberty as a result of choosing to apply God's principles to their lives.

Assignment 1: Answer the Reason and Relate questions below:

1. What caused Adam and Eve to make the choice to **not** apply God's Principles of Liberty?

2. What was the effect on their own lives for violating God's Principles of Liberty?

3. What is the effect on mankind and the rest of Creation because of Adam and Eve's choice to violate God's Principles of Liberty?

Let us know in the community about your "ah-ha" moments, what inspires you, what gives you clarity in this lesson, or how you see this layer adding to how you'll develop lesson plans. And, remember to comment on other people's posts to encourage them and build community.

Module 4 Review

In this module, you learned or reinforced the importance of:

- Natural Law referring to Creation
- Revealed Law referring to Scripture
- Mankind had Natural Law first
- Mankind was given Revealed Law later
- God's Principles of Liberty
- Different wording for God's Principles of Liberty

In this module, you reflect on:

- examples of Natural Law revealing Creator God to His creation
- examples of Revealed Law revealing Truths to mankind
- why certain principles are principles of liberty

In this module, you learned how to graphically organize and show your students:

- Natural Law/External Evidence (page 3)
- Revealed Law/Internal Evidence (page 6)