Natural Law 自然律

Declaration of Independence mentioned the base is 美國的獨立宣言上面,提到一個很有趣的地方:他們所依據來進行獨立的根基是在於 "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them". --自然律和自然的神所給他們的權柄.

我們來思想一下, 甚麼是自然律/Laws of Nature?

I. What is Natural Law? 甚麼是自然律?

Illustration 1:

Gravity

Illustration 2: Water density

Illustration 3:

Child birth in Taiwan (old time)

Illustration 4: Buy and sell

14 沒有律法的外邦人若順著本性(自然)行律法上的事,他們雖然沒有律法,自己就是自己的律法。15 這是顯出律法的功用刻在他們心裡,他們是非之心同作見證,並且他們的思念互相較量,或以為是,或以為非。)【羅 2:14~15】
14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 【Rom 2:14~15】

Illustration 5:

For example, Socrates said,

"True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing."

"Beware the barrenness of a busy life"

"When the debate is over, slander becomes the tool of the loser."

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

論語所說的 "朝聞道, 夕死可矣!" ("Chaowen said, Xi died" This is Google translation, it is going to have trouble in China.) 表示自然律 alone, 不能夠讓我們完全了解生命之道.

If in the morning I were to gain knowledge of the correct path in life, I would be able to die at the sunset without regrets.

II. 那麼人類有自然律, 為什麼還要聖經? If God placed Natural Law in the hearts of man, why do we need the Bible?

人心比萬物都詭詐 Human heart is most deceitful

⁹人心比萬物都詭詐,壞到極處,誰能識透呢?【耶 17:9】 ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?【Jer 17:9】

他們沒有辦法真正深入的明白真理 They cannot truly understand the truth:

¹⁸他們不知道,也不思想;因為耶和華閉住他們的眼,不能看見,塞住他們的心,不能明白。【賽 44:18】
¹⁸They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. 【Isa 44:18】

Illustration 6:

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【斯 Esth 1:16~18】

Malala Yousafzai, a 15 years old girl.

Illustration 8:

Giving Oath in Taiwan

Illustration 9:

Royal Submission in China

III. Biblical Laws are needed to build a good civil system.聖經的律法是必須的,才能夠建立好的社區.

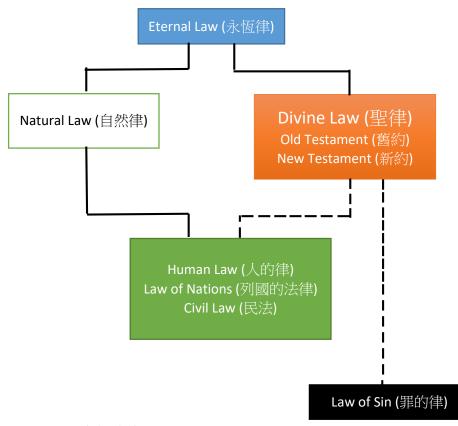
Illustration 10:

Hammurabi Law 漢摩拉比法典.

Illustration 11:

Lao's Custom

Thomas Aquinas, 第 13 世紀的神學家, 做了一本神學名著叫做 Summa Theologica,



Eternal Law/永恆的律: The principles by which God made and governs the universe. 神創造以及維持這個宇宙的法則.

Natural Law/自然律: The reflection of eternal law in the very structure of the created rational mind, directing us to our natural good. 神永恆的律反映在我們的心中, 引導我們去做自然(順性)的好事.

Divine Law/聖律: The reflection of eternal law in God's revealed Word. 神的永恆的律, 很大的部分藉著聖經向我們顯現. 包括舊約和新約.

Human Law/人的律: Detailed "determinations" or applications of natural law to the circumstances of particular human societies. 社會的法律——因著特定社會的需要, 把自然律應用在規範社會行為.

Illustration 12:
British/French Driving

Law of Sin/罪律: Not a law in the strict sense but a penalty or consequence resulting from Divine law for man's turning his back on God. 就是對抗聖律, 背對神所引致的後果. 嚴格講, 沒有這種 "法律".

Why use solid line? 為什麼用實線? Why use dotted line? 為什麼用虛線?

Illustration 13:

Texas Homosexual Law

Illustration 14:

Blue Law

Illustration 15: Bankruptcy Law

Illustration 16:

Physical Abuse vs Rape

【林前 1Cor 7:1~4】

Conclusion 結論

【申 Deut 4:6~8】

Reflections:

- 1. Compare the difference of the natural law in different setting. For example, how is the kindergarten pupil's conscience and the business club members' conscience different from each other? How about different cultures? 比較不同社團裡面自然律是否不同, 譬如幼稚園的孩童和扶輪社的社員之間, 他們的良心 標準有甚麼不同? 不同的文化, 良心標準有甚麼不同?
- 2. How shall Christians influence the legislation of your country? How could you help people to accept the influence from the Divine Law? 基督徒如何影響國家的立法? 如何幫助百姓接受聖經的影響?