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Laws We Live By Determine Our Fate

MANY groups deny the existence of God and effectiveness of the laws of God. Some hold that man has a right to determine his own rules of conduct, without regard for God or other people.

Such attitudes of "freedom" seem to mock the laws of God, the laws of man and the ethics of civilized society.

While talking with friends about the Moral Majority's campaign against liquor and other vices, a Midwest City man started organizing what he called "The Immoral Minority," to mock leaders for moral hypocrisy.

Constitutional amendment under which religions are permitted to establish their own bodies and choose leaders has enabled a number of Oklahomans to gain tax advantages by declaring themselves to be ministers of family churches.

During the inauguration of President Reagan, a young man who called himself Rev. Mike of the "Church of Latter Day Environmental Extremists" rose up to "preach" in Washington. He claimed Jesus

Christ started the environmental movement while he was fasting in the desert.

Man lives under several different kinds of law. He may be ignorant of some and try to ignore those he dislikes, but certain laws of right and wrong may be beyond man's ability to amend or repeal.

The majority of people in the United States apparently consider the highest authority to be the laws of God, laws for worship and laws for treatment of one's fellow men, as written in the scriptures.

So-called "laws of nature" are closely akin to the laws of God in the eyes of believers, while others may consider material matter to have self-determining powers through evolution, resulting in life.

A third classification includes the laws of mankind. Generally, these define crimes and provide penalties for murder, stealing and other offenses. Often, these are based directly upon laws of God.

Fourth, there are rules of society, covering ethics, business practices, social customs, and community liv-

ing.

Next come regulations by government, which may or may not involve principles of right and wrong.

Rules of families, employers and associations make up another broad category. These are more rigid in some families than in others. Employers must establish systems by which work may be accomplished. Clubs, civic organizations and churches determine who may join and set up procedures for conduct within the group.

Finally, there is self-discipline. Each individual determines for himself or herself, within superior laws in effect, how life should be lived. People may exercise firm discipline or be lax in regulating their conduct, but they cannot avoid effects of a combination of laws that determine each person's fate.

In his letter to the church at Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote: "Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, this he will also reap." (Galatians 6:7 ASV)