

Study Guide: 9-14-25 Adjustments - Chaos and Order

Overview

This message from the "Adjustments" series explores how God brings order from chaos through hierarchies, authority, structure, and ultimately His presence. Drawing from Genesis creation, it emphasizes small changes (adjustments) that lead to big results in life. Key theme: Chaos is Satan's plan (godless, broken); order is God's plan (dwelling in His presence). The world is chaotic, but believers can invite order by preparing for God's indwelling presence.

Key Scriptures

- **Genesis 1:1-5:** Earth as formless/void (Hebrew: *tohu wa-bohu* = chaotic, devoid of order); God creates light and separates it from darkness.
- **Genesis 2:2-3:** God rests on Day 7, blessing and sanctifying it—not from tiredness, but after establishing order.
- **John 1:1-5, 14:** Jesus (the Word) enters chaos as flesh to bring light and order.
- **Genesis 3:8:** God walks in Eden with Adam and Eve, showing His desire to dwell with creation.
- **Exodus 25:8:** God instructs building the Tabernacle to dwell among people.
- **John 14:6:** Jesus as the only way to the Father (God's hierarchy/structure).
- **John 14:23:** Obedience invites God's presence to dwell.
- **1 Corinthians 3:16:** Believers are God's temple; His Spirit dwells in us.
- **Exodus 33:14:** God's presence brings rest (order, sanctification, relationship).

Creation: Bringing Order from Chaos

God didn't just create; He organized chaos into order over 7 days:

- Most important day: Day 7 (rest = dwelling in ordered creation, not exhaustion).
- God's rest: In Eden with humanity, not heaven—He enters chaos to create order.

Biblical Patterns of Order from Chaos

God repeatedly uses hierarchies, authority, and structure to prepare for His presence:

- **Eden:** Ordered creation for God to dwell with Adam/Eve.
- **Noah's Ark:** Not a boat, but a rectangular tabernacle-like structure to save amid flood chaos; God covenants (presence) in Genesis 9.
- **Tabernacle (Exodus):** Precise instructions; filled with God's presence (Exodus 40).
- **Temple (Solomon's time):** Detailed build; filled with presence (2 Chronicles 7).
- **Jesus (Immanuel):** God with us, entering sin's chaos to bring order.

Hierarchies/authority/structure arrange chaos, but **God's presence** halts it and brings holy order.

Chaos vs. Order in Life

- **Chaos Defined:** Internal (sin, anger, addictions) or external (world's brokenness); leads to havoc in relationships, work, family, and with God. Satan's plan: Godless, presence-less, hopeless.
- **Order Defined:** God's plan—perfect dwelling in His presence (e.g., new heaven/earth where God descends).

- Self-Examination: Is your life more chaos or order? Chaos creeps in despite good intentions; we try fixes like addictions, philosophies, self-help—but they fail.

Little Adjustments for Big Results

1. **Embrace God's Hierarchy, Authority, and Structure:**
 - Hierarchy: Rank by importance (e.g., God first, not self-terms).
 - Authority: Submit to God's influence (e.g., John 14:6—no other way).
 - Structure: Follow His organization (Bible as recipe).
 - Result: Prepares space for presence; order follows obedience/submission/truth.
 - Warning: American Christianity often ignores this, claiming faith without it.
2. **Obey:**
 - Pride roots sin; disobedience drives it.
 - Simple: Do what God says (let go, forgive, give, stop sin).
 - Problem: We obey "just enough" for comfort, not fully.
 - John 14:23: Obedience invites Father/Son to dwell.
 - Bad enough to obey fully? Read the Word—you know what to do.
3. **God's Presence Brings Order:**
 - Not omnipresence, but indwelling/manifest (1 Cor. 3:16).
 - Examples: Eden (walk in cool of day), Tabernacle/Temple (Spirit rests).
 - Chaos can't overcome us with His presence.
 - Sanctifies (makes holy) like Day 7.
 - Moses' plea (Exodus 33): "If Your presence doesn't go, I won't." God's response: Presence + rest (order).

Reflection Questions

- Is your life defined by chaos or order? Why?
- What is most important to God—is it most important to you (hierarchy)?
- Are you submitting to His authority and doing what His Word says?
- Are you preparing a place for God's presence through obedience?
- Is anything more important than God's presence (e.g., riches, safety)?
- How can you invite His presence today (repentance, obedience)?

Key Takeaway

Where God's presence is missing, chaos reigns. Prepare your heart as a temple: Follow His order, obey, and invite His presence for rest, sanctification, and relationship. Chaos around can't win—His presence brings order within.