

Civics: A Christian Worldview.
“I’m the Ruler, and I Won’t Do This!” (15-20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students understand a ruler’s proper role—to protect rights, not dole out goodies to individuals obtained by government theft—by explaining why certain things are wrong for a ruler to do, answering objections by big-government supporters.
2. Print copies of Page 2 for each student, and hand out.
3. Give students 10-12 minutes to INDIVIDUALLY answer the questions.
4. Review at tables, or in pairs/groups.
5. Review together as a class. (Ask for volunteers! Key is below.)

Answer Key

The answer to all the first questions for each scenario is basically the same: “This action has nothing to do with protecting life, liberty, or property, and/or this action involves legal plunder.”

The answer to all the second blanks would be essentially the same. In order:

- “I can’t believe you’re against the people knowing about the daily news!” (As if there’s no alternative to a public TV station. And won’t a TV station funded by government be biased in favor of big government, since that’s how it’s funded?)
- “Don’t you want there to be roads? They’re important for travel!”
- “It’s important that we have enough food to eat!”
- “People who criticize the government can hinder them from getting things done!”
- “The poor need help! We’ve got to provide food for them.”
- “If we just let those gas station owners charge whatever they want, they’ll rip customers off!”
- “Don’t you think it’s important for people to have access to sports leagues if they like sports?”
- “Electric cars are the future! Isn’t it important that we develop these new technologies?”

Wrap-Up Note

The point is that rulers like to pay for these types of programs, because it makes them look generous—which it’s easy to be, when you’re using other people’s money. Not one of these programs has anything to do with the Bible’s standards for rulers—for them to threaten and punish evildoers (those who harm others). (And all could be done more efficiently by private companies, who are motivated by potential profits.) And to repeat, these are mostly examples of legal plunder—stealing from one group of taxpayers and giving the money to another group, one way or another. This is a perversion of the law’s true purpose.

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As newly elected ruler of a nation, you've been asked to undertake the following government actions. But...they violate the Biblical standard: that the gov't is only to be a threat to "evildoers"—those who harm or steal from others! Read these scenarios and explain why you won't be carrying out any of them. Then, predict what your opponents will accuse you of if you refuse. (That is, what would their objections to you be?):

1. Set up a public television station funded by taxes to discuss the daily news.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

2. Order a landowner to lend some of his employees to build roads connecting towns.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

3. Mandate that farmers plant certain crops to "improve the economy."

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

4. Punish citizens for criticizing the government in newspapers or online.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

5. Establish a government program to distribute free food to the poor.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

6. Regulate how much a convenience store owner may charge for his gasoline.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

7. Use tax revenue to set up a national soccer league.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:

8. Fund someone who is working on a new type of electric car.

Why this is not a legitimate gov't responsibility: _____

What big-government supporters would accuse you of if you told them you opposed this action:
