

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Legit Government Function Or Not? (10 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students practice determining whether a stated government act is a proper role for government, to reinforce this concept before talking about socialism and communism.
2. No handout—just read the scenarios below out loud to the class, and ask for student volunteers!

Are these legitimate, proper, Biblical functions of government or not?

1. The government tells landlords they may not charge above a certain amount for an apartment rental. (N)
2. The government builds roads and bridges. (N).
3. The law forbids fraud in advertising and business transactions. (Y)
4. The state sets minimum prices for agricultural products to stabilize farmer income. (N)
5. Taxes fund border enforcement and immigration courts. (Y)
6. Taxes fund scientific research on computer chips. (N)
7. The government guarantees student loans using taxpayer backing. (N)
8. The state requires professional licenses that restrict entry into certain trades. (N)
9. A judge rules that a company that poured chemicals into a lake must pay to restore its quality. (Y)
10. Workers are forced to save money through mandatory government retirement accounts. (N)
11. Taxes fund food assistance programs for low-income families. (N)
12. Parents are required to educate their children but may choose private schools. (N. This is a tough one, but again, the Bible says that governments should punish and threaten *evil/harm*, not force the education of children. The state could say, “We have to make parents educate their children in some way, for their own good.” But if that’s true and legitimate, how far can the state go? Aren’t fresh air and exercise good for children too? If so, is the state going to go door to door of families with children and check on that, too?)