

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Justice or Overreach?

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Key Concept

Government's proper, Biblical role is to execute judgment and justice when rights are violated (harm or theft occurs), not to direct the economy.

Time

10-15 minutes

Instructions

1. Print a copy of Page 2 for each student and hand out.
2. Read the instructions together.
3. Give individuals 6-8 minutes to answer, then discuss as a class.
4. Ask debrief questions.

Key (Some Answers Might Vary; Let Students Discuss!)

1. **A** – Property damage and harm. Government should execute justice and restitution.
2. **B** – Price decisions alone are not crimes.
3. **A** – Fraud. Government should intervene.
4. **B** – High prices are not theft (unless fraud or coercion involved).
5. **A** – Injury due to negligence. Restitution required.
6. **B** – Charity is voluntary.
7. **A** – Theft by deception.
8. **B** – Business decision; no rights violation.
9. **C** – If accidental but negligent, restitution may apply. Intent matters.
10. **B** – Wealth itself is not a crime.

Debrief Questions/Suggested Answers

1. What is the common thread in all the A answers?
Someone's person or property was harmed or violated.
2. Did any B answers involve "unfairness" but not crime?
Yes. Government is not called to equalize outcomes.
3. What must be proven before government punishes someone?
Intent (if criminal), guilt in court, and/or actual harm.
4. What phrase from the reading applies here?
"Execute judgment and justice."

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Label each scenario below...

A = Government Should Act (Crime/Restitution)

B = Not Government's Role

C = Not Enough Information

1. A factory knowingly dumps toxic waste into a river, poisoning downstream farmers' livestock.
2. A restaurant raises its prices during a busy tourist season.
3. A company falsely advertises that its medicine cures cancer.
4. A grocery store charges \$8 for a gallon of milk after a hurricane.
5. A construction company's faulty work causes a building to collapse and injure workers.
6. A business owner refuses to donate to a local charity.
7. A merchant secretly rigs his scales to cheat customers.
8. A clothing company decides to move production overseas.
9. A store accidentally sells a defective product that injures someone.
10. A business owner earns millions while nearby families struggle financially.

