

# ***Economics: A Christian Worldview – Spot the Assumption!***

## **(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)**

### **Objective**

Like the assumption that Christians who oppose welfare programs “don’t care about the poor,” there are other hidden assumptions in this common argument. This activity helps students (a) identify those assumptions, (b) distinguish between moral duty and civil enforcement, and (c) practice writing concise, logical rebuttals.

### **Time**

10-15 minutes

### **Instructions**

1. Print a copy of Page 2 for each student and hand out.
2. Have one student read the statement at the top of Page 2 aloud. (“If you were really a Christian, you’d support a law forcing redistribution.”)
3. Tell students: “Your job is not to argue yet. Your job is to detect what is *assumed* but not stated.”
4. Give individuals 6-8 minutes to follow the instructions on the next page
5. Have students discuss in pairs/groups, then discuss as a class.
6. Finish with the “Wrap-Up” section at the bottom of this page.

### **Key (Answers Will Vary; Let Students Discuss!)**

#### **Part 1:**

**ASSUMPTION:** All biblical moral commands must be enforced by civil law.

The hidden leap: Moral obligation = government enforcement.

#### **Part 2:**

1. **ASSUMPTION:** Modern America is equivalent to ancient Israel.  
*The hidden leap: Old Testament civil structure applies identically today.*
2. **ASSUMPTION:** Compassion requires state action.  
*The hidden leap: If you don’t use government force, you lack compassion.*
3. **ASSUMPTION:** Government is the proper instrument of generosity.  
*The hidden leap: Coercion counts as charity.*
4. **ASSUMPTION:** Redistribution is the only biblical way to help the poor.  
*The hidden leap: Private charity, church aid, and family support aren’t enough.*
5. **ASSUMPTION:** Christianity demands identical public policy conclusions.  
*The hidden leap: Faith automatically dictates specific legislation.*

### **Wrap-Up**

- Governments have explicit duties, according to the Bible: to be a “terror” to “evil” (violence, theft, and property/person violations, not to enforce charitable giving.
- Helping the poor is best done privately, and voluntary exchange (“capitalism”) has done an excellent job of lifting the poor’s living standards. (More on that later!)

# ***Economics: A Christian Worldview – Spot the Assumption!***

**Read this statement carefully:** “If you were really a Christian, you’d support a law forcing redistribution.”

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## **Part 1 – What hidden assumptions must be true for that above statement to make sense?**

Ask yourself these two questions, and think about the answers first:

- What must this person believe about Biblical moral commands and the government’s role?
- What does this person assume about Christianity?

## **Part 2 – Write one sentence for each assumption.**

Expose that person’s hidden assumptions and write a clear sentence for each one (keep your sentences logical, calm, and precise!):

1. What does the person assume about America and ancient Israel?

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2. What does the person assume about compassion and the state (government)?

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3. What does the person assume about the state and generosity?

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4. What does the person assume about redistribution of wealth and solutions to poverty?

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5. What does the person assume about Christianity and governmental policies?

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