

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Rights Violation or Just Business?

(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. **JB** – Hours of operation are business decisions.
2. **JB** – Competition is not a crime.
3. **RV** – Fraud/breach involving deception.
4. **RV** – Theft/property seizure.
5. **RV** – Negligence causing death; justice required.
6. **JB** – Pay structure is not theft.
7. **RV** – Property damage; restitution owed.
8. **JB** – Innovation is not injustice.
9. **RV** – Fraud.
10. **Q** – If negligence is proven, restitution required; if truly unforeseeable, different matter.

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...

RV = Rights Violation (Government should act)

JB = Just Business (Not government's role)

Q = Questionable (more facts needed)

1. A bakery refuses to stay open past 6:00 p.m., even though customers complain.
2. A store lowers prices to beat a competitor.
3. A contractor takes payment and never begins the agreed work.
4. A landlord locks out a tenant and keeps all the tenant's belongings without notice.
5. A trucking company knowingly overloads its vehicles, causing a deadly accident.
6. A business owner gives large bonuses to managers, but none to entry-level workers.
7. A farmer's cow wanders onto a neighbor's property and destroys crops.
8. A company creates a new product that makes older products obsolete.
9. A merchant lies about the weight of goods being sold.
10. A manufacturer unintentionally produces a batch of defective brakes that later fail.

