

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview
What's Wrong with This Thinking? (15–20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students will learn to evaluate ideas about government by starting with God's Word as the standard, recognizing the limits of human government, and maintaining a heaven-first perspective rather than treating political outcomes as ultimate.

Instructions

1. Read the instructions together.
2. Students work individually or in pairs.
3. Discuss answers together as a class.

Answer Key

1. Mistake: Treating laws as the final measure of right and wrong.
Better Approach: Begin with what God's Word teaches, then evaluate laws by that standard.
2. Mistake: Treating human opinions—even respected ones—as final authority.
Better Approach: Compare all human views to Scripture; agreement among people is not the standard.
3. Mistake: Studying mechanics without considering purpose.
Better Approach: Start with what God's Word teaches about government's purpose, then evaluate how it operates.
4. Mistake: Assuming better leaders will eliminate problems.
Better Approach: Recognize that government is made up of flawed people, so problems will remain.
5. Mistake: Expecting government to function without failure.
Better Approach: Understand that human sin affects all governments, so imperfections are inevitable.
6. Mistake: Treating earthly government as the ultimate focus.
Better Approach: Remember that Christians are citizens of heaven and should not place ultimate hope in political outcomes.
7. Mistake: Stopping with human documents as the standard.
Better Approach: Ask first what God's Word teaches, then judge all human systems by it.
8. Mistake: Assuming competing authorities will resolve truth.
Better Approach: Use Scripture as the consistent standard instead of relying on conflicting human sources.

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For each situation:

- Identify the mistake in thinking.
- Explain the better approach, including starting with what God’s Word teaches, and keeping a long-term (heavenly) perspective, when applicable.

1. A student says this: “If a law has been passed and upheld, then it must be right.”

Mistake:

Better Approach (include God’s Word):

2. During a discussion, someone says this: “I’ve found several respected Christian leaders who agree with me, so my position must be correct.”

Mistake:

Better Approach (include God’s Word):

3. A class spends all its time studying how government works—procedures, branches, and legal processes. A student asks, “But what is government actually supposed to do?”

Mistake:

Better Approach (include God’s Word):

4. A student says this: “If we just elect better people, government will finally work the way it should.”

Mistake:

Better Approach (include human limitation):

5. Someone reacts to a bad policy by saying this: “This proves the whole system is a failure—government shouldn’t make mistakes like this.”

Mistake:

Better Approach (include human limitation):

6. A person becomes consumed with politics—constantly frustrated, talking as if everything depends on fixing government right now.

Mistake:

Better Approach (include heavenly perspective):

7. A student evaluates every issue by asking this: “What does the Constitution or the courts say about this?”...and stops there.

Mistake:

Better Approach (include God’s Word):

8. Two students argue using different authorities—leaders, documents, and experts—but never reach agreement.

Mistake:

Better Approach (include God’s Word):

