

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
Two Purposes Only • Crime vs. Sin (15–20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students will internalize that government has only two Biblical purposes: (1) punish or threaten harm/evil, and (2) provide justice. They also distinguish between crimes that should involve the law, and sins that, while wrong, are not matters for the law.

Instructions

1. Students complete the “Two Purposes Only” section (give them five minutes); discuss as a class.
2. Students complete the “Crime vs. Sin” section (give them five minutes); discuss as a class.

Answer Key (“Two Purposes Only”)

1. PURPOSE
2. PURPOSE
3. NOT
4. PURPOSE
5. NOT
6. NOT
7. NOT
8. PURPOSE
9. PURPOSE
10. NOT

Answer Key (“Crime vs. Sin”)

1. C
2. S
3. S (Of course, if he injures someone or harms property, that’s another story!)
4. C
5. C
6. S
7. C
8. C
9. C
10. C (This is borderline, but arguably “judgment and justice” would punish “harming” someone’s reputation.)

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

If it doesn’t involve punishing harm or providing justice, the Bible does not give government that role.

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Sort each item into one of three categories and write the word underneath each item:
PURPOSE (fits one of the Biblical purposes for government), **NOT A PURPOSE**, or **NOT SURE**.

1. Punishing murder
2. Judging disputes fairly
3. Providing health care
4. Punishing theft
5. Building roads
6. Making housing affordable
7. Setting wages
8. Defending against invasion
9. Protecting citizens from violent attackers
10. Giving benefits to citizens

WAIT UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO THE “CRIME VS. SIN” SCENARIO BELOW!

Label each item below **C** (crime a government should threaten or punish),
S (sin that is wrong but not a matter for the law), or **N** (neither/unclear/not sure).

1. During a heated argument, one person lashes out physically, striking another in anger.
2. A person nurtures a deep, simmering hostility toward a neighbor, interpreting every action in the worst possible light.
3. A man drinks far beyond control at a gathering, losing judgment and becoming a potential danger to himself and others.
4. A stranger lures a child away from a public park with false promises and drives off before anyone notices.
5. A man deliberately takes another man’s life in a moment of calculated revenge.
6. A woman grows bitter and resentful as she watches a friend receive recognition she secretly believes she deserves.
7. An employee quietly pockets cash from the register at the end of each shift, assuming no one will notice.
8. A witness knowingly gives false testimony under oath to protect a friend from conviction.
9. A business owner falsifies records investors to secure money he has no intention of properly using.
10. A group spreads an unverified rumor about someone’s personal life, damaging that person’s reputation.