

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students clearly distinguish between the proper roles of government, the church, and personal responsibility.

Instructions

1. Put students in pairs or small groups.
2. Pairs/groups read scenarios together and choose a category: government's job, church's job, or neither/personal responsibility.
3. Students must answer: "Based on what?"
4. Give students 10-12 minutes to complete the scenarios, then discuss as a class.

Scenarios/ Key

1. A mechanic at a small auto shop secretly removes valuable parts from customers' cars during repairs and replaces them with cheaper, worn-out parts, later selling the original parts for profit.
Government may act (theft — violation of property).
2. A church member has been spreading cruel gossip about others in the congregation, damaging reputations. When confronted privately, he refuses to stop and continues the behavior openly.
Church's job (ongoing sinful behavior within the church; requires discipline).
3. A man becomes angry with his brother and refuses to speak to him for years, holding bitterness in his heart but never acting on it physically.
Church's job (a brother/sister at the church could confront the man if this attitude is known).
4. A pastor in a local church begins teaching that basic Christian doctrines are false, confusing members and leading several people astray.
Church's job (false teaching within the church).
5. A teenager lies to his parents about where he has been, but the lie does not involve any crime or harm to others outside the family.
Neither/personal responsibility (although the family might ask the church for guidance).
6. A man punches his neighbor during an argument over a property line, causing visible injury.
Government's job (assault; physical harm).
7. A church member commits adultery and continues the relationship without repentance, despite private confrontation by others in the church.
Church's job (serious, ongoing sin within the church).
8. A business owner intentionally falsifies financial records to avoid paying thousands of dollars in taxes.
Government's job (fraud/tax evasion).
9. A citizen group asks the government to pass a law requiring all residents to attend weekly religious services.
Neither (improper use of government; government forcing religion exceeds its proper role).

Wrap-Up/Debrief

Ask students:

- "Which scenarios were hardest to place—and why?"
- "What do all the government cases have in common?"
- "What do all the church cases have in common?"

Key Insight to Draw Out: Government deals with harm, crime, and justice (actions); the church deals with sin among believers (spiritual correction). Some things belong to personal conscience, not force.

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
“Whose Job Is It?” Quick Match Challenge

Read each scenario. For each one, choose a category: it’s the government’s job, it’s the church’s job, or neither/personal responsibility.

1. A mechanic at a small auto shop secretly removes valuable parts from customers’ cars during repairs and replaces them with cheaper, worn-out parts, later selling the original parts for profit.
2. A church member has been spreading cruel gossip about others in the congregation, damaging reputations. When confronted privately, he refuses to stop and continues the behavior openly.
3. A man becomes angry with his brother and refuses to speak to him for years, holding bitterness in his heart but never acting on it physically.
4. A pastor in a local church begins teaching that basic Christian doctrines are false, confusing members and leading several people astray.
5. A teenager lies to his parents about where he has been, but the lie does not involve any crime or harm to others outside the family.
6. A man punches his neighbor during an argument over a property line, causing visible injury.
7. A church member commits adultery and continues the relationship without repentance, despite private confrontation by others in the church.
8. A business owner intentionally falsifies financial records to avoid paying thousands of dollars in taxes.
9. A woman feels intense hatred toward a coworker but never speaks or acts on it outwardly.

