

**American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
Press Conference: Ask the Christian (15-20 minutes)**

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students practice explaining Christian civic behavior clearly and respectfully to outsiders.

Instructions

1. Divide the class into groups of 3–4.
2. One at a time in groups, students play a Christian being interviewed at a press conference; another plays a reporter asking tough questions. (Each player should cover up on Page 2 the questions below the question he asks as the member of the press, so the questions won't be given away!)
3. **Note:** Students are *not* allowed to answer only this: "Because the Bible says so!" They should also explain the reasoning behind why the Bible says what it does about Christians and government.
4. Give students 8-10 minutes to go through the questions, then discuss as a class.

Scenarios/Suggested Answer Key

1. "If your governor is corrupt and arrogant, why should you pray for him?"
Christians pray for rulers because God commands it and remains sovereign over them. He can restrain evil, grant wisdom, or bring repentance even to corrupt leaders. Benefit: Prayer helps Christians avoid bitterness and shows trust in God rather than obsession with politics.
2. "If Christians think heaven matters more than earth, doesn't that make them bad citizens?"
Christians who believe they answer to God should often become better citizens by obeying laws, paying taxes, and living peacefully. Hope in heaven should produce integrity, not poor citizenship. Benefit: Christians are less likely to become desperate, dishonest, or hateful over politics.
3. "Why should Christians pay taxes to governments they disagree with?"
Christians are called to obey lawful authority even when they dislike policies or spending decisions, including taxes. Benefit: Honest obedience strengthens a Christian's testimony in his trust in God.
4. "If Christians refuse some government commands, doesn't that make them dangerous rebels?"
Christians obey government in ordinary matters and refuse only when government commands sin or forbids obedience to God. Even then, they should resist respectfully. Benefit: This helps prevent both blind obedience and reckless rebellion.
5. "Why shouldn't Christians mock political leaders online if the leaders behave badly?"
The Bible commands Christians to honor rulers. Strong criticism may be appropriate, but mockery and hateful speech are not. Benefit: Respectful speech keeps Christians from becoming consumed by anger and makes their message more persuasive.
6. "If Nero was evil, why did Paul still tell Christians to pray for rulers?"
Paul said this while Nero ruled Rome, showing that Christians should pray even for wicked authorities. Benefit: This teaches humility and trust that God remains in control even under bad governments.

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

Ask students: "Which is harder, praying for public officials or honoring them? Why?"

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When it's your turn to be the reporter, ask your question to the person in your group who is the Christian answering questions. NOTE: Don't look below to the next question; stick to reading YOUR question!

1. "If your governor is corrupt and arrogant, why should you pray for him?"
2. "If Christians think heaven matters more than earth, doesn't that make them bad citizens?"
3. "Why should Christians pay taxes to governments they disagree with?"
4. "If Christians refuse some government commands, doesn't that make them dangerous rebels?"



5. "Why shouldn't Christians mock political leaders online if the leaders behave badly?"
6. "If Nero was evil, why did Paul still tell Christians to pray for rulers?"