

***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:***  
**Build a Government Challenge (15-20 minutes)**

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY**

**Goal**

Students explore why government is necessary but dangerous, and why governments need limits because humans are sinful.

**Instructions**

1. Divide the class into groups of 3–5.
2. Tell each group: “You are founding a brand-new country and government.”
3. Each group must create (a) three powers the government should have and (b) three limits on the government.
4. After 5–7 minutes, each group presents its government.
5. **After every presentation, introduce a “problem card”:**
  - “Your ruler becomes greedy.”
  - “Citizens begin stealing from each other.”
  - “The government starts imprisoning critics.”
  - “Foreign invaders attack.”
  - “A leader raises taxes excessively.”
  - “The people refuse to obey laws.”

**Groups must explain in response to the “problem card”:**

- Why government is necessary
- Why government power must also be restrained

**Debrief/Wrap-Up**

Discuss:

- Why did Madison say government must “control itself”?
- Why is unlimited government dangerous?
- Why would a government run by sinners need limits?