

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
Who Put Them There? (10-15 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students distinguish between God establishing the institution of government, God allowing rulers to exist, and the debate over whether God personally appoints every ruler. Students also practice building conclusions directly from Scripture rather than assumptions or slogans.

Instructions

1. Do this activity as a class using the handout.
2. Read the two Scripture passages on the handout aloud.
 - “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God...” (Romans 13:1-2).
 - “Israel hath cast off the thing that is good....They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not....” (Hosea 8:3-4).
3. As a class, discuss the statements on the handout and ask students if they are supported; ask for volunteers!

Scenarios/Suggested Answer Key

1. “Government itself is part of God’s design for human society.”
Clearly Supported – Genesis 9 and Romans 13 support government as part of God’s order.
2. “If a ruler is corrupt, that proves God had nothing to do with allowing him to rule.”
Clearly Contradicted – God may still allow rulers to exist even when they are evil.
3. “Hosea 8 suggests that people can establish rulers in rebellion against God.”
Clearly Supported – Hosea says Israel established kings “but not by me.”
4. “If God allows a ruler to remain in power, that means God approves of everything the ruler does.”
Clearly Contradicted – God may allow rulers without approving everything they do.
5. “If citizens dislike a ruler, they are automatically justified in resisting government authority.”
Clearly Contradicted – Romans 13 teaches submission to authority, not automatic rebellion based on dislike of those in power.

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

Ask students:

- Why is it important to distinguish between God creating government, God allowing rulers, and God approving of rulers?
- Why do people often confuse “God allowed it” with “God approves of it”?
- How do Romans 13 and Hosea 8 create tension that Christians must think carefully about?

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Based on the above Bible passages, are the following statements supported?

1. “Government itself is part of God’s design for human society.”
2. “If a ruler is corrupt, that proves God had nothing to do with allowing him to rule.”
3. “Hosea 8 suggests that people can establish rulers in rebellion against God.”
4. “If God allows a ruler to remain in power, that means God approves of everything the ruler does.”
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