

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
Angel or Sinner 2? 1 (15-20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students apply the idea that government is both (a) necessary because humans are sinful and dangerous, and (b) dangerous because rulers themselves are sinful too. Students must think critically about when society needs stronger enforcement against wrongdoing and when government power itself becomes the threat.

Instructions

1. Read the instructions together. (Students must choose one response: “Need More Government Control” or “Government Needs More Limits.”)
2. Give students individually 10-12 minutes to write brief responses, then discuss in pair/small groups.
3. Discuss as a class.

Scenarios/Suggested Answer Key

1. **The Speech Ban** – Government officials begin fining citizens for “offensive” political opinions posted online. Authorities claim this is necessary to reduce “social tension.”
Government Needs More Limits. Reasoning: Government should protect liberty and not suppress dissent or controlling opinions beyond its proper role.
2. **The Weak Judge** – A judge becomes famous for refusing to jail violent repeat offenders because he believes punishment is cruel. Several released criminals later seriously injure innocent people.
Need More Government Control. Reasoning: Government’s duty includes punishing evildoers and deterring future violence. Failure to punish criminals harms innocent citizens.
3. **The Expanding School Mandates** – Government schools begin requiring students to participate in political activism projects supporting whichever policies current leaders favor.
Government Needs More Limits. Reasoning: Governments going beyond their proper role and using institutions to shape political thinking and expand control are improper and dangerous.
4. **The Border Invasion** – A violent criminal group repeatedly attacks border towns, steals property, and kidnaps citizens, but national leaders refuse to respond because they fear appearing too forceful.
Need More Government Control. Reasoning: Governments should protect citizens from outside invaders and violent threats.
5. **The Endless Tax Increase** – A government continually expands programs unrelated to protecting citizens from violence or fraud, requiring constant tax increases and heavy debt.
Government Needs More Limits. Reasoning: Governments expanding beyond their Biblical purpose and continually increasing control and taxation are improper and harmful.
6. **The Lawless Neighborhood** – Residents in one neighborhood stop cooperating with police entirely because they believe all authority is illegitimate. Soon gangs begin controlling businesses and intimidating families.
Need More Government Control. Reasoning: Without lawful authority restraining violence and intimidation, stronger criminal groups often seize power instead.

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

Ask students:

- How can power be abused by governments?
- What is the greater danger in these scenarios—criminals or governments? Why?

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Read each scenario and choose either “Need More Government Control” or “Government Needs More Limits”; write a brief sentence explaining your reasoning, based on what we’ve learned so far.

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