

***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview. Short Film: “McCulloch v. Maryland: The Debate About Enumerated Federal Powers” (10–12 Minutes)***

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS**

**Goal**

In this short (4:53) film, students see the implications of the *McCulloch v. Maryland* decision and its “interpretation” of the U.S. Constitution.

**Instructions**

1. Play the short film above here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXG-NmpSBz0>.
2. Discuss as a class by asking for volunteers for their thoughts.

**Debrief Questions**

1. What information in the film were you familiar with?  
*AWV.*
2. How far can a government official go with the belief in “implied powers”? What is it about a government official’s being in that position that makes it likely that he will go as far as he can?  
*AWV, but as far as he can go, since it empowers himself, and he imagines that he has the ability to interpret the document that is supposed to limit his powers.*
3. How does the babysitter comparison fit here?  
*Just like the bratty kid, government officials who don’t see the Bill of Rights as limiting their power because it doesn’t explicitly say they can’t do X, Y, or Z (even though the Ninth Amendment is supposed to fix that issue), government officials also love to cling to the “implied powers” belief and stretch it just as absurdly as the “commerce clause” example in the short film.*