

GOVERNMENT



PURPOSE

Government and public policies are more than just personal taste. God is very interested in the issues that governments make laws about, and He wants us to know that. This badge intends to help boys understand government and issues in the light of God's Word.

LEARNING

1. The Bible says this about government:
 - a. **Matthew 28:18** — All authority has been given to Jesus. Any authority that exists, including political governments, is under Jesus and has their authority because He has given it to them.
 - b. **Romans 12:6–8** — Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, commands those with the gift of leadership to govern diligently. John C. Calhoun, an American vice-president once proclaimed that a public office is a public trust. He was right. And as the passage states, a government leader must govern diligently. He will be held accountable.
 - c. **Job 34:17** — People in government positions of authority must have a desire to do what is right.
 - d. **Romans 13:1–7** — We must submit to anything established by God, and He ordained and established the governing authorities. Therefore any rebellion against the government leads to rebellion against God and will result in judgment, whether that be divine or by the local authority. The government is in place to uphold the good order of society, so when you live as a Christian ought to, there will be no problems. However, if you go against the authorities, they have been given the right to justly punish the wrong doer. Verse 7 speaks for itself: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
2. The Bible says this about issues:
 - a. **Abortion** — Psalm 139 makes it very clear that God is already working on a person's life between conception and birth. Thus, the individual in the womb is indeed a person, which means that aborting that individual is murder. According to the Ten Commandments, murder is a violation of God's expressed will. No matter what some might say about a person's right to choose, God is against abortion.
 - b. **Taxes** — Since the governing authorities are ordained by God, it is only right to support them. Romans 13 makes it clear that taxes are appropriate, though it doesn't discuss how tax levels are to be determined, nor what they should be used for. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. If you owe taxes, pay taxes.
 - c. **Helping the poor** — We should be eager to help the poor. Still, we must use discernment. If a person is poor simply because he is lazy, we might best help him by not feeding him.
 - d. **Military** — Armies are an appropriate form of defense. A Christian nation, however, must always recognize that their real strength and security is in God.
 - e. **Racism** — The greatest commandment of all can be summed up in one word: love. When Jesus was asked the most important law, He replied with two: Love God and love your neighbor. Loving your neighbor leaves absolutely no room for racism. Philippians 2 tells us to be like Christ and consider others better than ourselves. This philosophy is directly the opposite of racism.
 - f. **Homosexuality** — God is very clear on how He deals with the sexually immoral, which homosexuality is a part of. They will not inherit the kingdom of God, unless they repent. Verses 18–20 teach us that our bodies are not our own, but were bought at a price and are temples of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, honor your body.
 - g. **Same sex marriage** — Romans 7:2 speaks of the marriage bonds. They are between a man and a woman, no exceptions. Colossians 3:18–19 tells us that wives are to submit to their husbands, as fitting in the Lord. Husbands are to love their wives and not be harsh with them. This is God's outline for the marriage relationship, and His outline doesn't change.
3. Some examples of USA political parties: America First, American Heritage, Communist, Democrat, Green, Libertarian, Natural Law, Reform, Republican, Socialist.
Some examples of Canadian political parties: Abolitionist, Canadian Democratic Movement, Christian Heritage, Communist, Green, Liberal, New Democratic, Socialist Party of Canada; Conservative Party of Canada.
4. It should be easy to find the information on the current political leader.

DOING

1. Make sure that their essay includes their position on the issues addressed.
2. Self-explanatory.
3. Self-explanatory