

# ***TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY***

## ***Extending God's Ways to the World***

### **TEACHING TOPICS:**

#### ***I. INTRODUCTION***

- Discipling A Nation
- Foundations for Freedom
- An Historical Timeline of Freedom

#### ***II. THE INDIVIDUAL***

- Self-Government
- Worldviews: You Live the Way You Think
- Leadership Self-Evaluation

#### ***III. THE FAMILY***

- The Purpose and Activities of the Family
- Education: The Key to Transformation

#### ***IV. THE CHURCH***

- The Purpose and Activities of the Church
- The Church and Evangelism

#### ***V. THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT***

- The Purpose and Activities of Civil Government
- Economics and Property

#### ***VI. WORKSHOPS / OUTREACH***

- Preparing Topical Messages
- Preparing Textual Messages
- Practical – Student Outreach

## ***DISCIPLING A NATION***

- A. The Command of Mat 28:18-20:
  - 1. God wants us to disciple, not just evangelize, nations.
  - 2. A disciplined nation is one built on Biblical principles.
  
- B. The Process of Discipling a Nation or Community:
  - 1. To disciple a nation, we must first disciple the people in a nation.
    - a) Change begins with the heart. 2 Chr 7:14
    - b) Change continues as people reason from the Bible and apply it to all of life. Rom 12:2
    - c) As the individual is changed, then those around will be impacted.  
Individual → Family (Education) → Church → Community (Civl government, Economics)
    - d) The kingdom of God begins small and grows. Mat 13: 31-32, Josh 1: 6-9
  
- C. The Type of Freedom that God is Interested in Bringing - John 8:32:
  - 1. Liberty = to be free from external control that would keep us from living according to our purpose
  - 2. Internal Liberty:
    - a) Spiritual liberty (heart): freedom from the slavery of sin where Christ is Lord. Gal 5:1.
    - b) Liberty of Conscience (mind): freedom to hold and act on Biblical beliefs. 2 Cor 1:12, 13.
  - 3. External Liberty (Society):
    - a) Religious Liberty – freedom to worship and evangelize. Acts 5:25-29, 40-42
    - b) Economic Liberty – freedom to own and exchange private property. Acts 5:4, Ex 20:15
    - c) Civil Liberty – a person’s life, liberty and property are protected under just laws. Acts 22:25, Rom 13:3-4
  
- D. The Christian idea of change: to destroy no faster than can replace with something better. Show a better way. Mat 5:14-16

# Discipling Nations

Civil Government

Church

Family

Individual

The Bible / Truth

## ***FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM***

### **A. God is the Highest Authority and all people and nations are accountable to Him (Faith in God as King)**

1. God is the source of all things. Jn 1:3; Rm 11:36
2. Because of His nature & character, God is most qualified to rule all nations and all people.
  - a) Knowing God is the beginning of freedom (and wisdom).
  - b) God is the highest authority; sovereign over all nations. 1 Tim 6:15; Dan 4:25
3. God's Law is the highest law. All laws must submit to the Law of God in order to be legitimate.
4. All individuals and institutions are ultimately accountable to God for their actions. 2 Tim 4:8; Jms 4:12; Rev 20:11-13
5. Authority flows from God to the individual and outwards.

### **B. People are made in God's image and have great value (People are valuable)**

1. People are unique and extremely valuable so must be protected.
2. Created with a personality
  - a) Mind (Reason); Will (ability to choose); Emotions
3. All people have God-given rights – life, liberty and property.
4. All people are equal before God
  - a) Equality = equal value, equal rights and equal justice
  - b) Justice = equal rights before the law; no favoritism
5. Governments exist for protection of individuals and their property. People are more important than the government.

### **C. People must be free to live according to their conscience (Liberty of conscience)**

1. We are His workmanship. Eph 2:10
2. God gave us the earth to own property and use it. Gen 1:28
3. Internal property vs eternal property
  - a) Conscience is the most important of all internal property.
  - b) Conscience: ability to know right and wrong. Rm 2:15; Acts 24:16; 2 Cor 1:12
    - (1) A conscience must be educated. 1 Tim 1:5
    - (2) A defiled conscience. Titus 1:15; Rm 1:18-23
4. Governments exist for the protection of individual's property.

### **D. The Laws of God (and of a nation) are to protect life, liberty and property of people (The Law is to protect value)**

1. Knowing and applying the Bible (truth) is the key to freedom (for individuals and nations).
2. God's Laws of love
  - a) The Law of God is called the Law of liberty. Jms 1:25; Jms 2:8-12
  - b) The 10 Commandments – protects life and property and indirectly liberty.
  - c) Summary of the Law of God: love God and love others.
3. The laws of a nation must submit to the law of God.

### **E. Christian character is essential to build and sustain liberty (Christian Character)**

1. Moral decay is the greatest threat to the liberty of a nation: it will destroy itself more quickly than any foreign army can do.
2. Character = beliefs that result in consistent behavior.
3. Christian character begins with internal heart change and results in character transformation.
  - a) Heart → Mind → Society
  - b) Gal 5:16-24; 2 Cor 3:17; 1 Jn 4:20

**F. People that are voluntarily unified form a strong, lasting community (Voluntary Union)**

1. God Himself is unified. The Trinity is a voluntary union of three beings working together for a common purpose (a team).
2. Internal unity produces a strong external community. Jn 17:20-21; 1 Cor 12:12+; Col 3:14 ; Ph 1:27
3. A covenant or union must be a voluntary, not forced.
  - a) Covenant = the voluntary agreement of two or more people to do some certain things.
  - b) Union = a joining of two or more things into one

## Historical Timeline of Liberty

### **Creation 4000 BC**

God's plan is for self government and liberty under God's rulership. Gen 2:16-17

### **Adam's Sin 3500 BC**

Entrance of sin into the world. Gen 3

### **The Flood 2500 BC**

Judgment and limitation of sin. Gen 6:3, 5-8. Establishment of civil government. Gen 9:5-6

### **The Tower of Babel 2250 BC**

Pagan monarchy, centralized power. Gen 11:1-9

### **God calls Abraham 2091 BC**

Establishment of Israel as a model nation. God is king. Gen 12:1-3

### **The Ten Commandments 1440 BC**

Israel: a nation under law. Ex 20:2-22

### **Israel Demands a King 1075 BC**

Rejection of God as king. 1 Samuel 8:4-9

### **Jesus the Messiah 3 BC - 30 AD**

Freedom from sin (salvation). Christian self government. Equality for all people. Lk 1:76-79

### **The Early Church 70 - 312**

Power of the Holy Spirit for all people. Rapid church expansion. Decentralized churches. Valued the poor, women, slaves. Acts 2

### **Roman Christianity 300 -1400**

Centralization of power in the pope. External forms of Christianity.

### **The Middle Ages 590 - 1151**

Bible removed from the common people. Little advancement in civil liberty, science, technology.

### **The Rise of Islam 620 .....**

Corruption in the Christian church led to the advance of Islam.

### **The Crusades 1095 - 1270**

Slaughter of innocent Muslims. Unbiblical method of preventing the spread of Islam.

### **The Bible in the Common Languages and in the Hands of the People 1381 – 1525**

Wycliffe, Luther, Tyndale.

### **The Discovery of Paper 1430**

### **The Invention of the Printing Press in Gutenberg 1440**

Many Bibles printed and distributed so people could read it for themselves.

**The Protestant Reformation 1517**

Brought internal liberty through direct access to God and His Word. Rise of civil liberty.

**The Age of Invention and Discovery 1600's**

Great achievements in education, inventions, literature, art.

**The Pilgrims to America 1620**

Desire for church and civil reforms based on the Bible. Mayflower covenant: written agreement on rules for civil liberty.

**Writings on Christian Government**

1632 John Locke: argued against the divine right of kings. No right to taxation of property without representation.

1689 Charles Montesquieu: Defined what made up good law. Separation of powers to prevent centralization.

1723-1780 Henry Blackstone: Emphasized the rights of the individual

1772 Samuel Adams: Love of liberty under law

**American Independence 1776**

Nation established on Biblical principles. "A nation under God".

**The Great Awakening 1700's**

Revivals in America and Europe. Wesley, Edwards, Whitfield.

**The Missions Movement 1700's...**

Christian missions sent to Asia, Africa, South America.

Moravians. Livingstone. Taylor. Carey. Judson.

## ***BIBLICAL SELF-GOVERNMENT***

### A. Definition of Government

1. Government is direction and control.
  - a) Direction: to lead or to guide on the right course; to influence by truth.
  - b) Control: to order; to stop or restrain by force.
2. First level of government is direction, then control if necessary.

### B. God governing the earth.

1. God cares for His people therefore He sets up government in every area of society.
2. God scatters the people Gen 1:28-29; Gen 11:1-9; Cain Gen 4:1-14; Adam and Eve Gen 2:16-17; 3:17, 22-23; The flood Gen 6:5-7 (chapter 6-7)
3. God begins civil government. Gen 9:6

### C. Christian Self-Government

1. Kingdom of God (Light) vs Kingdom of Darkness
  - a) Kingdom of Darkness = Satan is ruler.
    - (1) Sin is selfishness and comes from within (heart). Mk 7:6-8; Jms 4:17; Rm 7:19-25
  - b) Kingdom of God = God is ruler.
    - (1) Salvation: repentance and faith → Jesus is king. Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:15; Mt 23:25-28
2. Christian self-government = the individual submitting to God's will and rulership in their lives.
3. Jesus always submitted to God's government (always did the Father's will)
  - a) Jn 8:29 "...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him"
  - b) Jn 6:38 (Jn 4:34; 5:30; Mt 26:39); Phil 2:7-8; Jn 17:21, 23
  - c) Jesus' obedience was voluntary.
4. Who is in control is seen in our obedience. Rm 6:12, 16-19
5. Christ indwelling and ruling in us.
  - a) 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Jn 3:24; Jn 16:7, 13; Acts 2:4; Gal 4:6; Rm 8:9-11, 14
  - b) Christ lives inside us by His Spirit and empowers us to live according to His laws of love. Eze 36:26-28
6. Self-government = self control. Pr 16:32
7. Christian Self-Government = the government of God from within is only possible through Christ.

### D. The internal causes the external

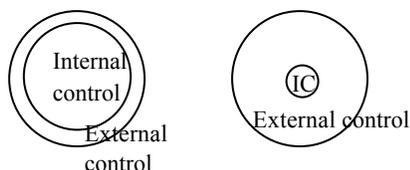
1. One must govern self before you can govern (lead) others. 1 Tim 3:4-5
2. The quality of individual self-government will determine the quality of the families, churches and civil government in a nation.

God → self → family → church → village → city → province → country.

3. All change must begin in the internal and extend to the external

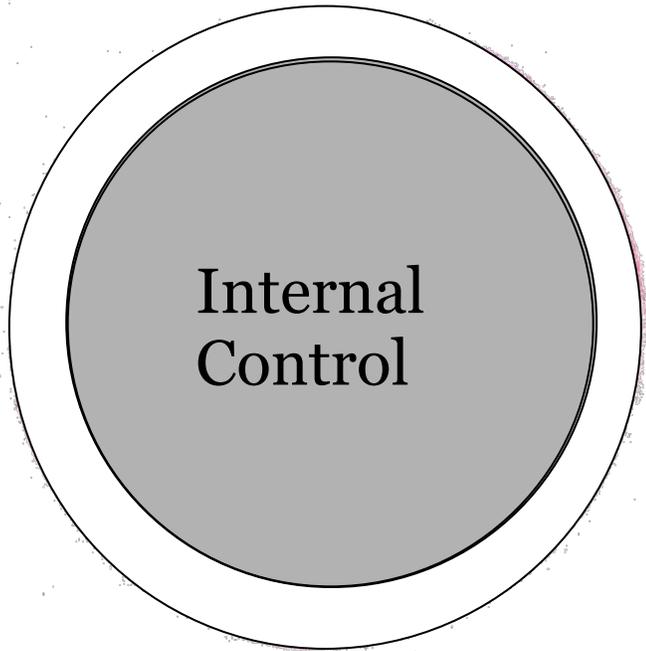
### E. The more internal self-government a person has the less external government (rules/control) he needs.

- a) Rm 13:3-4; Heb 12:7

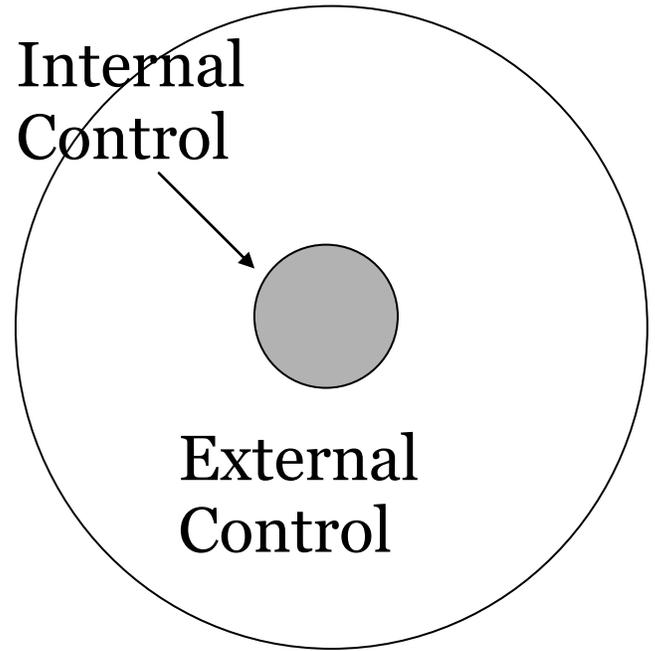


# The Individual

## Biblical Self-Government



Freedom



Bondage



## COMPARING WORLD VIEWS

	<b>ANIMISM</b>	<b>BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>SECULARISM</b>
<b>RELIGIONS</b>	Spiritism, Hinduism, Buddhism, <i>Islam</i> , New Age, Witchcraft	Christianity	Communism, Marxism, Atheism Humanism, Materialism
<b>GOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are spirits</li> <li>• Are all powerful and in control of everything</li> <li>• Are impersonal (not relational)</li> <li>• Exist in all of creation</li> <li>• Are unpredictable (irrational/ arbitrary)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is Father, Son and Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Is the Creator of the universe</li> <li>• Is all powerful</li> <li>• Is personal and relational</li> <li>• Is rational. God and His creation operate by physical laws (which God can transcend)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no God</li> <li>• Man is the highest authority</li> <li>• Life evolved through interaction of matter, energy, time and chance</li> </ul>
<b>TRUTH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reality is essentially spiritual</li> <li>• The physical world is animated by spirits (All is illusion, people are not real; <i>Not Islam</i>)</li> <li>• Truth is hidden (unknowable) irrational (arbitrary) and relative (changeable)</li> <li>• All things and people are made of the same spirit stuff: All is one. (Brahmin)</li> <li>• Time is cyclical: rotates like a wheel. Focus is on past events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reality is both spiritual and physical</li> <li>• Reality is knowable (from Bible and creation) and objective (verifiable)</li> <li>• Truth is absolute (universal and unchangeable)</li> <li>• Time is linear: durational and sequential</li> <li>• Focuses on past, present and future</li> <li>• There is an afterlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reality is only physical</li> <li>• Only what is proved by science is real</li> <li>• Focuses on present and future</li> <li>• There is no after life</li> </ul>
<b>VALUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value is from the system or caste</li> <li>• No equality</li> <li>• Value is arbitrary</li> <li>• <i>Karma</i> is payment for sins in former life (Hinduism, Buddhism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people are created in the image of God with equal value</li> <li>• God created a hierarchy of value (man is of greater value than animals and plants)</li> <li>• Equality = Equal value and justice</li> <li>• Man serves God</li> <li>• God ultimately served man through the sacrifice of His Son</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value is based on performance / function or contribution to society</li> <li>• Survival of the fittest</li> <li>• Equality = Equal distribution of all things</li> </ul>

	<b>ANIMISM</b>	<b>BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>SECULARISM</b>
<b>MORALITY</b> <b>Right and Wrong</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morals are arbitrary (no set standards) like the arbitrary gods</li> <li>• Sin does not exist: The spiritual is unaffected by physical actions</li> <li>• Wrong action is due to ignorance and has no consequence (Hinduism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right and wrong are absolute (universal and unchangeable)</li> <li>• Based on our created design (conscience and will) and purpose (love relationship)</li> <li>• Sin is breaking God's laws with a consequence of death / separation from God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morals are relative: no God therefore no absolutes</li> <li>• Ruling people/party decide what is right and wrong</li> <li>• End justifies the means</li> <li>• People can be conditioned /programmed to do good</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship the universe</li> <li>• To free the earth from himself</li> <li>• Man is unable to influence god through relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To live in a love relationship with God and others</li> <li>• Man can shape history in co-creating with God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universe exists for man only</li> <li>• Man exists for his own happiness</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCES</b>  <b>AND</b>  <b>CAUSE OF POVERTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited</li> <li>• There are no physical laws</li> <li>• To increase wealth must take from someone else</li> <li>• Gods are irrational and capricious</li> <li>• Gods are angry and need appeasement</li> <li>• I am poor and will always be poor</li> <li>• I can do nothing about it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited and unlimited</li> <li>• Are created and discovered</li> <li>• Man is co-creator with God Rom 8:19-22</li> <li>• Man has stewardship over the universe</li> <li>• The Mind is the Ultimate resource</li> <li>• Ps 8:3-9; Is 11:9; Deut 8:15-30</li> <li>• Everyone can gain</li> <li>• Begins inside of man</li> <li>• Is rooted in a culture of poverty</li> <li>• Does not come from lack of resources</li> <li>• Comes from separation from relationships with God and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited</li> <li>• Population growth is too high</li> <li>• To increase wealth must take from someone</li> <li>• Limited resources</li> <li>• Excessive population : solution get rid of people</li> <li>• Exploitation and oppression of poor by colonialism or consumerism; solution is redistribution of resources</li> </ul>

	<b>ANIMISM</b>	<b>BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>SECULARISM</b>
<b>GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External to Internal (External is causative)</li> <li>• No responsibility for actions</li> <li>• Fatalism &amp; Passivity - everything good and bad is determined. Why change anything?</li> <li>• Poverty &amp; Indifference to poor</li> <li>• Victim mentality</li> <li>• Cruelty – no compassion</li> <li>• Submission &amp; Inferiority</li> <li>• Fear &amp; Bondage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal to External (Internal is causative)</li> <li>• Responsibility for actions</li> <li>• Transformation – we can change and be instruments of change</li> <li>• Compassion</li> <li>• Faith and hope</li> <li>• Wisdom, Creativity, Prosperity</li> <li>• Liberty/Freedom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External to Internal (External is causative)</li> <li>• Uniformity – all things the same</li> <li>• Cruelty – no compassion</li> <li>• Change by force</li> <li>• Superiority – look down on other views</li> <li>• Pride</li> <li>• Limited freedom</li> <li>• Limited prosperity</li> </ul>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual exists to serve the ruler</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual exists to serve God</li> <li>• The ruler exists to serve the people and help them to serve God better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual exists to serve the ruler</li> </ul>
<b>FLOW OF AUTHORITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler/ leader is highest authority</li> <li>• Ruler/Leader = god incarnation</li> <li>• Authority flows from Ruler/Leader to Individual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is the highest authority</li> <li>• Authority flows from God to the individual and outwards</li> <li>• Individual voluntarily submits to leader</li> <li>• Separation of power to prevent corruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler/Leader is the highest authority</li> <li>• Authority flows from Ruler/Leader to Individual</li> <li>• State is god</li> </ul>
<b>MEANS OF CONTROL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of spirits/gods, therefore constant appeasement necessary</li> <li>• Power and Force</li> <li>• Impressions (Dreams, visions)</li> <li>• Centralized power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truth of God</li> <li>• Influence</li> <li>• Reason</li> <li>• Self-government</li> <li>• Decentralized power/government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of consequences</li> <li>• Power and Force</li> <li>• Centralized power/government</li> </ul>
<b>LAW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler is above God’s laws i.e ruler/leader =god and word is law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler and Individual are subject to God and His laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler is above God’s laws and creates his own law</li> </ul>

Characteristics of Godly Leaders: Self Evaluation  
1Timothy 3:2-7

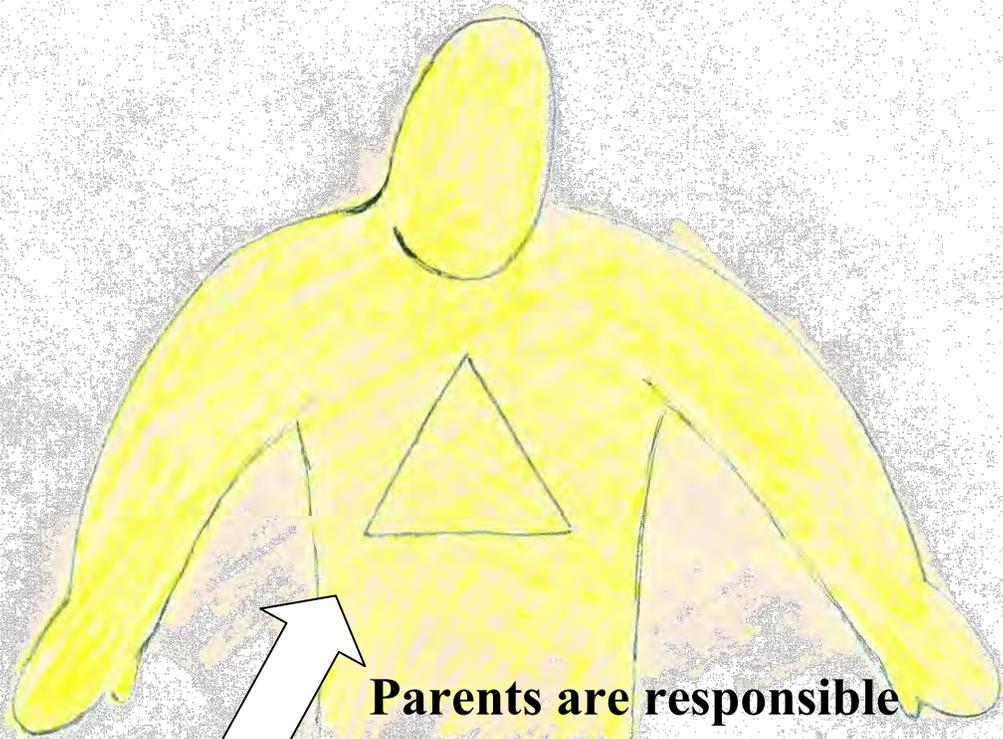
<b>Scale</b>					
<b>1</b> (need to improve)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> (doing very well)	
<u>A. Trustworthy; strong integrity</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>B. Committed to loving spouse</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>C. Good judgment; wise in handling practical matters</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>D. Strong self-control</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>E. Admirable; honorable</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>F. Friendly; available</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>G. Good teacher, communicator</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>H. Not drunk, irresponsible</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	
<u>I. Not angry, but gentle</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	



***THE FAMILY***  
***Provides the Character for Freedom***

- I. God established the family to be a place of evangelism and discipleship to reflect His character and ways in society.  
Gen 2:18-24; Gen 18:18, 19; Dt 6:4-9; Ps 78:5-7; Mal 4:6; Jn 5:19, 20; Lk 18: 15-16
- II. The foundation of the home is the marriage covenant.  
Exodus 20:14; Malachi 2:13-16
- There is mutual accountability. Eph 5:21
  - Fathers model godly authority. Ephesians 5:25-30
    - \* Limited power
    - \* Answerable to God
    - \* Serving
    - \* Making rules for the highest good of all in the home
    - \* Keeping order respectfully
  - Mothers model respect and consent. Eph 5:22-24
- III. Fathers and mothers equally are to manage their children.  
Ephesians 6:1, 4
- Parents are only stewards. Ps 127:3; Eph 6:1-3
  - What you sow into a child, you will reap. Prov 22:6
- IV. Primary activities of the home:
- Care for the physical needs of all members. 1 Timothy 5:8
  - Care for their spiritual needs. Hebrews 12:7, 11; Eph 6:4
    - \* Teach the Bible
    - \* Seek God in prayer and worship
    - \* Maintain discipline
    - \* Build Christian character
    - \* Teach a Biblical view of life
  - Educate children. Proverbs 1:8
- V. As the home goes, so goes society.  
1 Timothy 3:4, 5

# The Family



**Parents are responsible to God for how they manage their children.**



**Children are to obey and submit to their parents.**

## **EDUCATION**

*Provides the Curriculum for Freedom*

1. The Principle of Sowing and Reaping
  - Gal 6:7-8
  - Lk 8:4-15
  
2. What is Education? 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - a. “teaching”- giving knowledge
  - b. “reproof and correction”- producing character and self-government
  - c. “training in righteousness”- forming habits, teaching what is right (values)
  - d. “equipping for good works”- preparing for life
  
3. What is the Purpose of Education?
  - a. To teach each generation the history of what God has done. Ps 78:1-11
  - b. To build godly character. Gen 18:19
  - c. To help the child to fulfill their purpose. Pr 22:6; Prov 1:8
  - d. To train the child to read the Bible. Josh 1:8
  
4. Whose Responsibility is it to Educate Children?
  - a. Both parents. Dt 6:4-9; 20-24; Eph 6:1-4; Titus 2:3
  - b. You can delegate, but not surrender, this area of responsibility.
  - c. If the civil government educates children without our input then:
    - 1) They will force uniformity of thought
    - 2) They will determine what is right and good
    - 3) They will teach dependence on the government rather than on God
  
5. What Should be Taught and How?
  - a. Education trains people for a form of government. Either we train for God’s government or some human system.
  - b. We build faith in God through each subject by showing how it reveals God.
  - c. In each subject, we can show how God worked through people of faith to give greater understanding.
  - d. A Christian education trains children to reason from the Bible for how they should live.

### **Application Questions**

Are you aware of what God has done in history, so that you can teach it to your children?

Are you involved in how your children are educated?

Are you preparing your children to think for themselves by showing them how to look to the Bible to find principles for how to live?

# Education

**To give  
knowledge**

**To produce  
character &  
self-government**

**To form  
habits &  
teach right  
values**

**To prepare  
for life**

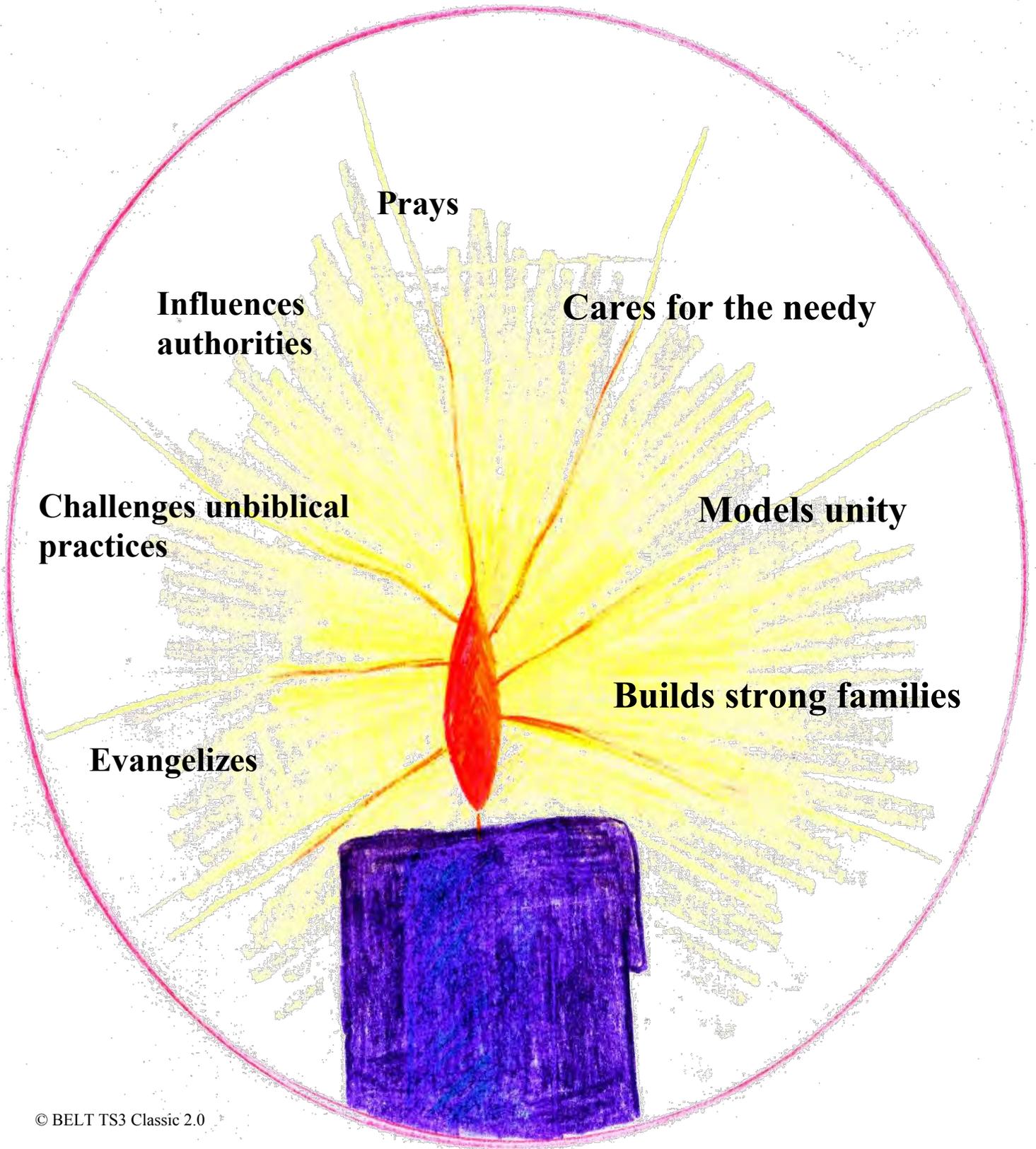


***THE CHURCH***  
***Provides the Light for a Nation***

1. The main purpose of the church: to educate the conscience with biblical truths necessary for the continued freedom of the individual and society. Gal 5:13-14; Prov 14:34; Ps 11:3
  - a. Conscience evaluates what we know with how we act. The church is the light in the nation that teaches and models right from wrong. Acts 24:16; Philippians 2:15; Mt. 5:13-16
  - b. The main biblical idea that should guide individuals and nations is respect for people's lives and private property. Ex 20: 3-17; James 2:8; Mt 7:12
  - c. The Bible teaches standards for every area of society. Lk 3:12-14; Mt 22:21; Ex 20: 3-17
  
2. The main activity of the church: teach the Word of God. Acts 5:42; 2 Timothy 4:2, 3:16-17; Titus 1:9
  - a. Evangelism: applying the word to change the heart. Acts 2:14, 37-38
  - b. Discipleship: applying the word to change the understanding and form character. Acts 2:42, 8:30-31; 17:10-12; Titus 1:8b, 9; Eph.4:22-24
  - c. Ideas → Character → Government  
The ideas we believe shape how we behave which determines what type of government we need. Proverbs 27:19; Mat 7:17; Proverbs 29:7; 28:2; 29:16; 24:3-4, Jn 8:31-32
  
3. The church influences the nation by:
  - a. Building strong individuals & families with self-control, respect for the law, and faith in God. Acts 16:30-34; Titus 3:8; James 1:25; Prov. 28:6
  - b. Modeling unity despite differences. Acts 4:32, 6:1-3, 9:34-35; Gal 3:28; Jn 13:34; 17:22-23; Col 3:11; 1Pet 4:8; 1 Jn 2:9
  - c. Modeling within the church how civil government should look:
    - Leaders are chosen from within its members and matters handled locally. Acts 6: 1, 3, 5, 14:23; 1 Corinthians 5:12
    - Leaders have limited power and exist to serve the people with integrity. Acts 6:2-6; Mat 20:25-27
  - d. Evangelizing. Acts 1:8, 8:4, 11:20-21; 1 Pet 3:15-16; 2 Tim 4:17
  - e. Caring for the needy. Acts 2:45, 11:28-29; Ezkl 16:49-50; Jas 2:14-17
  - f. Praying for the community. Acts 1:14, 2:42; 1 Tim 2:1-2; 2 Chron 7:14; Ezkl 22:29-30
  - g. Influencing authorities with truth. Acts 8:26-38, 9:15, 10:22-48, 24:24-26; Mat 10:18-20
  - h. Challenging unbiblical cultural practices. Acts 2:17-18; Philemon 15, 16; Col 3:18-4:1 (Eph 5:21-6:9) Mt 12:1-13; 15:1-20
  - i. Calling a nation to repentance and prayer as needed. Acts 17:30; Ezkl 3:17-18; Jeremiah.7:24-25; Isaiah 1:16-17, Jonah 1:2

# The Church

## The Light of a Nation



# **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

*Provides the Protection for Freedom*

## **I. God established civil government.**

1. In the beginning, everyone was governing themselves. God was the only judge and king. Gen 4:8-13
2. Civil government came out of necessity because people lost internal government. Gen 6:5-8, 11-13.
3. God established civil government to protect the value of innocent human life and the rights He gave to people. Gen 9:5-6
  - a. God gave people authority to take life for life (of highest value).
  - b. This authority was limited and subject to the rule of law. Deut 17:4-13; 19:4-13, 15-20.

## **II. The Purpose of civil government is the protection of the individual. Rm 13:3-4; 1 Pet. 2:13-14**

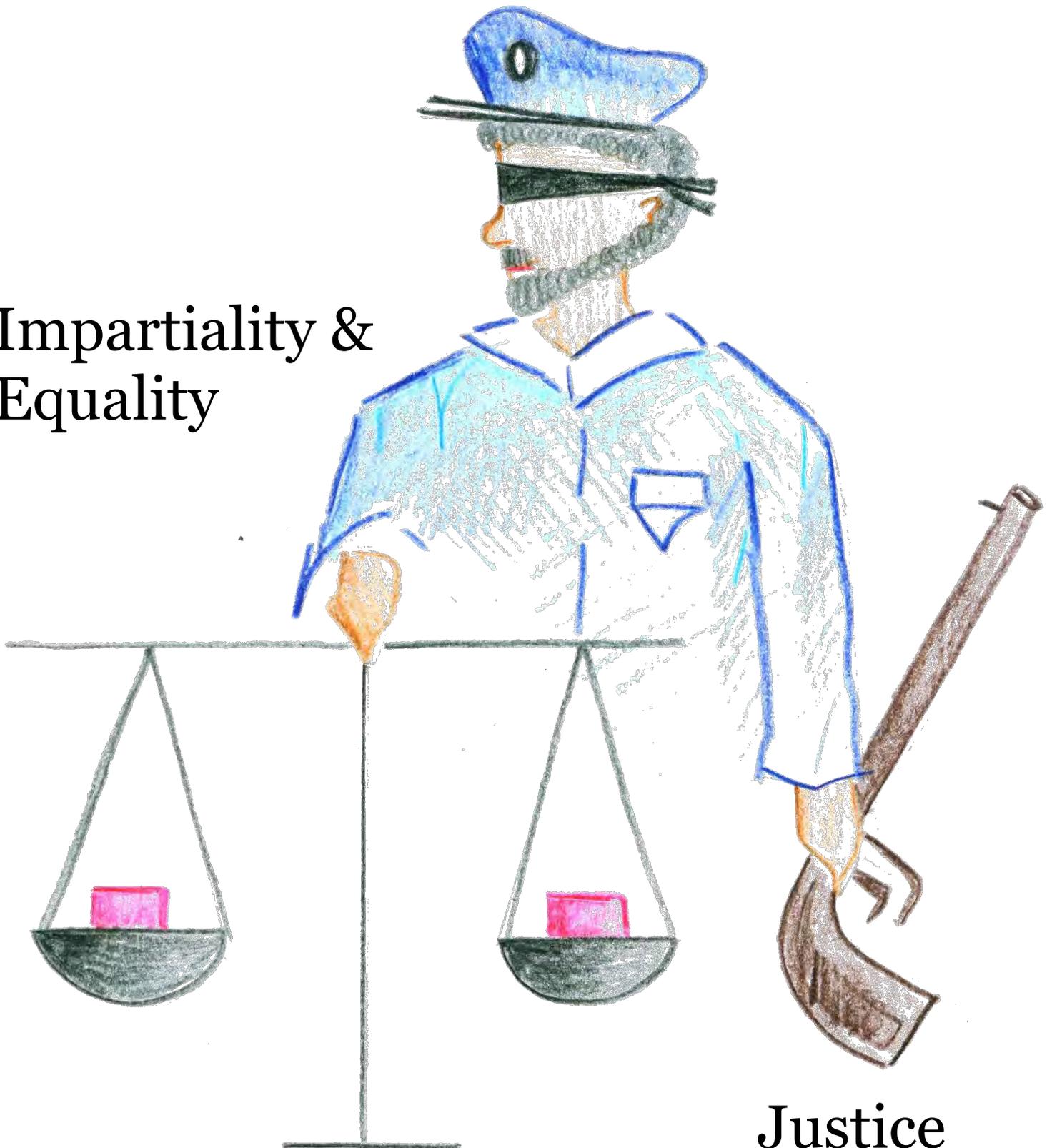
1. The purpose of civil government is to protect the life, freedom and property of each individual from evildoers and to praise and promote those who do good.
  - a. Leaders are to be servants. Lk 22:24-7
  - b. We delegate authority to the government so that we can live without fear of evildoers.
  - c. As individuals, we must forgive but the government is responsible to punish evil so that law and order are upheld.
2. Good civil government exercises impartiality (no favoritism) and justice (setting things right).
  - a. God exercises impartiality and justice and desires us to do same. Dt 10:12-21 (Is 11:4; Ps 98:9), Lev 19:2, 15, 1 Pet 1:15-16
  - b. Exercising this justice is what brings stability to a nation. Pr. 29:4
3. Justice must be impartial and not be swayed by bribes
  - a. Dt 16:19-20; Pr. 17:23; Ex 23:8; Is 5:23; Dt 27:25;
  - b. Justice = giving to others their equal rights before the law.
  - c. Bribery undermines justice and blinds the eyes.
  - d. How do we live in a society where bribery is common?
    - i. Be known as someone who will never pay a bribe.
    - ii. Injustice will not change if we continue to give into it. Acts 24:26-7.
4. Ungodly civil government is tyrannical (exercises powers not given by God; arbitrarily taking life, freedom, property). This is seen in:
  - a. Pride and arrogance (hatred for God). Ex. 5:2; Dan 4:30; 2 Ki 19:10
  - b. Taking private property to build the state. 1 Sam 8:11,13-14,16; (1 Ki. 9:15,19,22)
  - c. Ruling by force and fear. Ex 1:9-10; (2 Ki 25:1-3, 6-7)
  - d. Cruelty. Jer 39:8-10; 2 Ki 25:1-3, 6-7; 2 Chron 16:7-10; 2 Chron 26:16. These kings saw themselves as above the law.
  - e. Governments only have authority when they operate by God's law.
5. If a government is not doing its job to protect private property, economics will be affected because there will be little incentive to work.

### **III. Christians should be working to see God's purposes for government established.**

1. Christians are to work to change ideas (internal) and bring change peacefully (external).
  - a. We need to change the worldview about government not just the person in power.
  - b. Change cannot come until there is something better in place.
2. Christians should not give in to unjust government.
  1. We must obey God's law even when the government breaks it. Acts 4:19, 5:25-29; Daniel 6:7-10; Ex. 1:15-21
  2. Christians should be the best citizens.
3. Instead of speaking against government, we should pray for them. 2 Chr 7:14; 1 Tim 2:1-2.
4. Take action
  1. Education:
    - a. In homes, teach your children to read, to know the Bible, to know what God has done in your nation. Deut 6:4-9,20-25.
    - b. The church is to teach on all areas of society and train the people to govern themselves (internally).
    - c. The media should communicate truth. This will allow people to make right decisions.
    - d. Schools and universities should show how every subject has its basis in God and His principles.
  2. Campaign to elect godly representatives or become a representative. Rom 16:23
  3. Influence civil leaders towards a Biblical view.
    - a. We are to be the conscience of the nation.
    - b. Build on what is already good in a nation.
    - c. Even if our leaders are not Christians, we will be better off if they are people of character.
  4. Take responsibility. Government was given by God; it is not an unspiritual area.
    - a. The truly spiritual life is practical. This includes being educated and involved in government.
    - b. Christians are responsible for the quality of government in a nation because they are the ones who have the truth about how a nation should behave morally.

# Civil Government

Impartiality &  
Equality



Justice

## ECONOMICS

1. God and money
  - a. God is not opposed to us having wealth because He is the one who gives us the ability to be wealthy. Deut 8:18; 1 Ki 3:9-15 (Solomon)
  - b. God's approval of wealth depends on our heart motive.
    - i. Love of money (greed). Josh 7:20-21 (Achan); 1 Tim 6:10
    - ii. Love of others (have enough to help others). 1 Jn 3:17
2. God gives us the right to own property.
  - a. All things belong to God. Gen 1:28; Ps 24:1; Eph 2:10; 1 Cor 6:9-19-20
  - b. Property: the sole right of possessing, enjoying and disposing of a thing. Acts 5:4; Mt 20:15
  - c. God has given man the right to possess property. Acts 5:1-11 (Ananias and Sapphira); Gen 15:18; Gen 34:10; Ex 20:15; Dt 19:14; Ex 20:17; Mt 20:1-15
  - d. Property is both internal and external.
    - i. External: houses, animals, body, tools
    - ii. Internal: mind (creativity), will, talents, abilities
3. Christian character is important to increase wealth.
  - a. Good stewardship. Prov 10:4, 5; Matt 25:14-29
  - b. Willingness to work hard. Col 3:24; Thes 3:6-10; Prov 10:4, 12:11, 14:23
  - c. Love and obedience for God - produces love for others. Mt 22:36-40
  - d. Faith in God - removes fear and anxiety which can hinder productivity. Mt 6:25-33
  - e. Discipline - delays immediate gratification.
  - f. Integrity – honesty, keeping promises. Dan 6:3-4; Prov 11:3
  - g. Generosity. Deut 15:1-11; Prov 10:24; Acts 4:32- 5:4
  - h. Justice – no bribes, corruption or favoritism. Prov 13:23
4. Ideas have consequences
  - a. Blessings come for those who have a godly worldview
  - b. Two views about how we get wealth:
    - 1) Wealth is limited
    - 2) Wealth is unlimited because it can be created.
5. How do we increase wealth?
  - a.  $\text{Natural resources} + \text{Labor} \times \text{Tools} = \text{Level of prosperity or wealth}$ 
    - i. Natural resources: things that occur naturally in the earth
    - ii. Labor: physical or mental energy/creativity
    - iii. Tools: any instrument used to produce goods and services
  - b. What is needed to make this equation work?
    - i. Relationship with God, from which comes creative ideas and Christian character
    - ii. A government which protects the God-given right to private property
6. The role of civil government and the church in making a nation prosper
  - a. Government is to provide safety in a nation
    - i. By protecting the property of individuals
      1. By keeping taxes low
      2. By providing justice to limit stealing and corruption
  - b. The church is to provide for the poor and needy
    - i. The poor are those who are unable to provide for themselves – widows, orphans, the disabled, the elderly, refugees.
    - ii. The early church voluntarily gave to those in need. Acts 4:34, 35

- iii. The poor had to work for what they received. Ruth 2:1-3
- c. It is not the government's role to provide for the poor and needy.
  - i. Taxing the rich to give to the poor was not God's idea of providing for the poor.

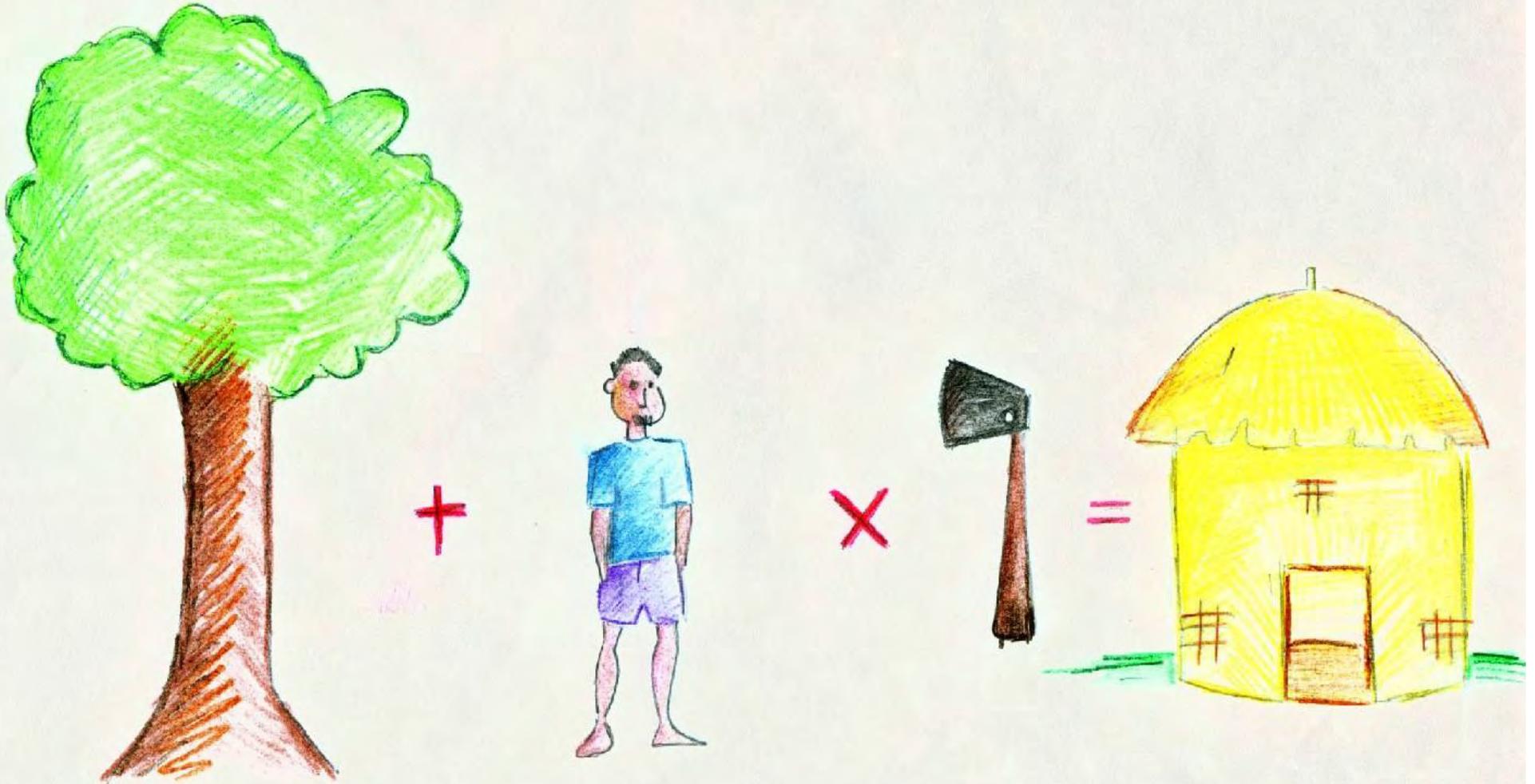
**Questions to consider:**

What is your attitude to wealth and money?

Is your worldview in line with the truth?

Do you look to God for creative ideas? Do you have faith and trust in Him to show you how to provide?

# Economics



**Natural Resources + Human Energy x Tools = Material Wealth**

## PREPARING TEXTUAL MESSAGES

1. Prayer
  - a. Ask for God's guidance and wisdom.
2. Audience: consider who will be attending the teaching.
  - a. What do they need to hear at this time in their lives?
  - b. What does God want to see changed in their lives?
3. Text: select an appropriate Scripture text
  - a. It can be one or two verses or many verses.
  - b. It is good to use a complete story, parable or section of scripture that has a complete thought in it.
  - c. From this text you will form the main points of your message.
4. Context: know how the selected scripture fits into the bigger picture.
  - a. Read the verses before and after the selected text or read the chapter the verses are in.
  - b. If possible, know the context of the book. Who was the author? Who was he writing to? What was some of the issues or problems the author was trying to address on the book as a whole?
5. Study: study the text so you know it well.
  - a. Read the selected verses 3 or 4 times.
  - b. Ask these four questions:
    - 1) Main Idea – What is the main idea of these verses?
    - 2) God – What does it say about God the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
    - 3) Lesson – Is there an instruction, promise or warning?
    - 4) Application – How can we put this truth into practice in our daily lives.
6. Outline: form an outline of the main points you want to teach.
  - a. Introduction – Introduce the main idea to be taught. Think of a way to grab the audience's attention.
  - b. Points – List 2 - 5 points that explain or support the main idea. The main points must come from the text itself. It is helpful to use the progression of the verses to help you form your points.
  - c. Illustrations – Explain each main point using a story, a testimony, a diagram or a drama or something else.
  - d. Conclusion: Review the main points and give any last thoughts. Your application can be part of your conclusion.
7. Materials: prepare any materials you will use for illustrating your message.

# *TEACHER EVALUATION*

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

	POOR	AVERAGE	EXCELLENT	COMMENTS
<b>1. Introduction</b>				
<b>2. Organization of content</b>				
<b>3. Illustrations / Techniques</b>				
<b>4. Application</b>				
<b>5. Conclusion</b>				
<b>6. Interaction with audience</b>				
<b>7. Humor</b>				
<b>8. Humility – Vulnerability</b>				
<b>9. Voice – Loud and Clear</b>				
<b>10. Eye Contact</b>				
<b>11. Space</b>				
<b>12. Time</b>				

**Extra Words of Encouragement:**