The Biblical-Principle Approach Homeschool Experience™

Module 1

The Biblical-Principle Approach

Philosophy

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The Biblical-Principle Approach Philosophy

The Big Picture

(Module 1 Overview)

First Things First...

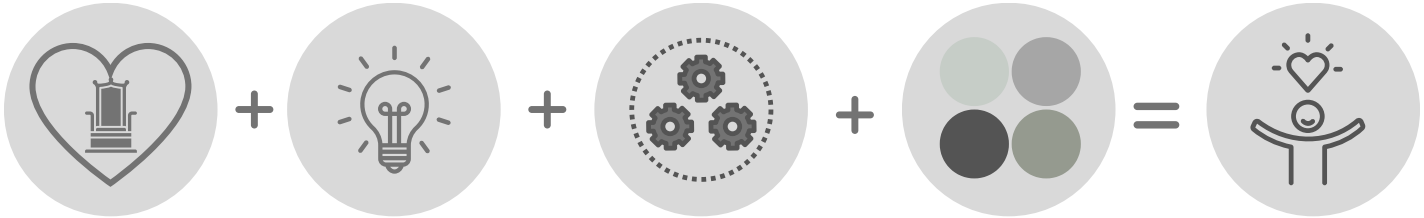
Define the word *internal for a clear understanding.*

Define the word *sovereign and reading Scripture for a clear understanding.*

Internalizing God's *sovereignty and seeking Him.*

Going Deeper...

Seeing the need for all things to be under Sovereign God's government.



Define the word *government for a clear understanding.*

Understand internal self-gov't and external gov't. Also, reflect about self-gov't and the other fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Understand the three functions of gov't; considering their functions for God's image bearers'

Getting familiar with the four spheres of gov't; seeing the three functions of gov't within them; contrast honoring/violating each sphere.

Seeing it's application in life through literature (curriculum). Practice the application of your convictions (internal to external).

It's okay if things are unclear at first. Things become more clear as you participate in discussions, review the meeting videos, and as we progress through the modules. You can do it!

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Let's begin by refreshing our memories about the definitions of *internal* and *sovereign.*

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: internal

INTERN'AL, adjective [Latin internus.] Inward; interior; being within any limit or surface; not external. We speak of the internal parts of a body, of a bone, of the earth, etc. internal excellence is opposed to external. The internal peace of man, is peace of mind or conscience. The internal evidence of the divine origin of the Scriptures, is the evidence which arises from the excellence of its precepts and their adaptation to the condition of man, or from other peculiarities.

1. Pertaining to the heart.

With our Savior, internal purity is every thing.

2. Intrinsic; real; as the internal rectitude of actions.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: sovereign

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines sovereign as supreme in power; possessing supreme dominion; superior to all others; one who possesses highest authority.

Assignment 1: Look up and read the following Bible references that are provided for you. Jot down the principle (cause, source, origin, or truth) from each one.

Genesis 1:1 God was in the beginning; God is a Creator; the heavens and the earth were created because He is sovereign and He wanted to create them.

1 Chronicles 29:11-12_____

Psalm 135:6 _____

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Assignment 1 (continued): Look up and read the following Bible references that are provided for you. Jot down the principle (cause, source, origin, or truth) from each one.

Psalm 103:19_____

_____

Psalm 115:3 _____

_____

Job 42:2 _____

_____

Proverbs 19:21_____

_____

Daniel 4:35 _____

_____

Isaiah 46:9-10 _____

_____

1 Timothy 6:15 _____

_____

Hebrews 4:13 _____

_____

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Assignment 2: What is an "ah-ha" moment for you, gives you clarity, or impacts you from this lesson? Write it down below and post it in the community.

Optional Assignment: For self-reflection: What areas of life are there in which you need to repent and ask God to forgive you for not accepting and submitting to His sovereignty?

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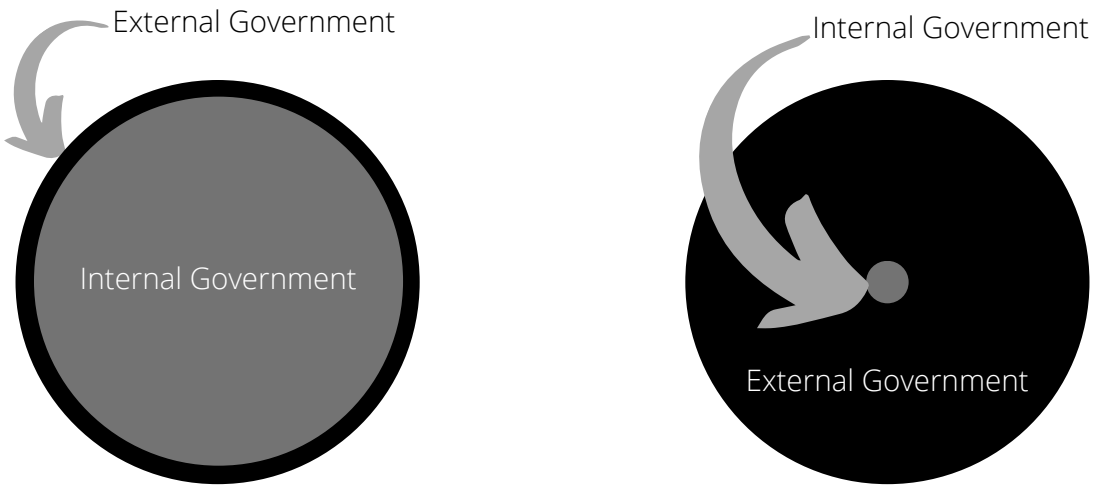
Webster's 1828 Dictionary, *government*:

direction, regulation, control, restraint.

Internal government has to do with the character of the people. And the amount of external government they need is dependent upon the internal self-government of the people.

The more self-governed the individual is, the less external government is needed. Whereas the less self-governed the individual is, the more external government is needed.



Assignment 1: Look up and read the following Bible verses about self-government/self-control. Write down your reasoning from Scripture about the importance of self-government.

Proverbs 25:28 _____

_____

2 Timothy 1:7 _____

_____

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Assignment 1 (continued): Look up and read the following Bible verses about self-government/self-control. Write down your reasoning from Scripture about the importance of self-government.

2 Peter 1:5-7 _____

_____

Proverbs 16:32_____

_____

1 Peter 4:7_____

_____

Titus 1:8 _____

_____

James 1:19_____

_____

Proverbs 29:11 _____

_____

Titus 2:11-12 _____

_____

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Assignment 2: Read Galatians 5:22-23 and reason Biblically about why the other fruits of the Holy Spirit grow out of Christian self-government (aka self-control). Record your thoughts.

Assignment 3: Go into the community and let the group know your thoughts on why the other fruits of the Holy Spirit grow out of Christian self-government.

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Optional Assignment: For self-reflection, explain areas of your life where you need to practice Christian self-government (remembering what Philippians 4:13 teaches us).

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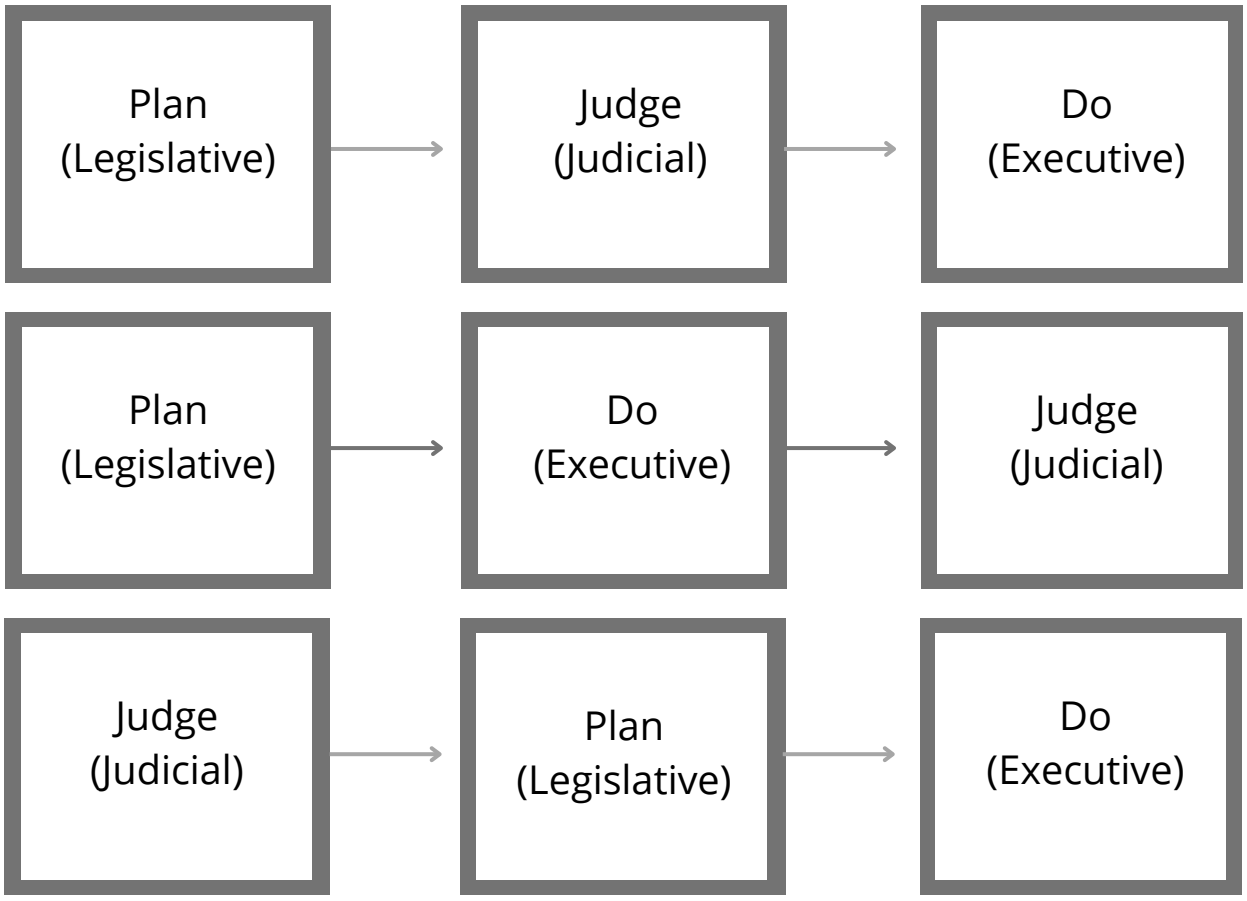
There are three functions of government. Remember that *government* means: direction, regulation, control, and restraint. The three functions can operate in the following ways:

1. We can plan, make judgement about our plans, and we can put those plans into action.
2. We can plan, put those plans into action, and we can judge the outcome of our plans.
3. We can judge according to God's Word/Principles, we can decide on a plan for how to improve things according to God's Principles, and we can put those plans in action.

THE 3 FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT



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There is potential to violate the three proper functions of government. It can look like the following:

1. We don't plan/are thoughtless.
2. We don't take time to judge.
3. We don't take time to 'do'/take proper action.

What gives the individual "checks and balances" regarding planning, judging, and doing? God's principles are the standard for which the individual is to go by.

We need to learn to be discerning. And over time, you will see how this works as we learn more about God's principles of liberty for the individual and for nations.

Charles Spurgeon is quoted to have said:

> **Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.**
>
> **—C.H. Spurgeon.**

Proverbs 14:12 teaches us: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (KJV)

Matthew Henry's Commentary has this to say about Proverbs 14:12: "We have here an account of the way and end of a great many self-deluded souls. 1. Their way is **seemingly fair**: It seems right to themselves; they please themselves with a fancy that they are as they should be, that their opinions and practices are good, and such as will bear them out. The way of ignorance and carelessness, the way of worldliness and earthly-mindedness, the way of sensuality and flesh-pleasing, seem right to those that walk in them, much more the way of hypocrisy in religion, **external performances**, **partial reformations**, and blind zeal; this they imagine will bring them to heaven; they flatter themselves in their own eyes that all will be well at last. 2. Their end is really fearful, and the more so for their mistake: It is the ways of death, eternal death; their iniquity will certainly be their ruin, and they will perish with a lie in their right hand. **Self-deceivers will prove in the end self-destroyers**."

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Let's consider some of what Matthew Henry's commentary makes note of.

Without understanding God's principles, individuals will think that some ideas are 'seemingly fair' and 'that their opinions and practices are good.' This puts individuals in a state of 'ignorance and carelessness, the way of worldliness and earthly-mindedness, the way of sensuality and flesh-pleasing.'

To be clear on what ***sensuality*** means, let's define it with Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

"**SENSUAL'ITY, noun** Devotedness o the gratification of the bodily appetites; free indulgence in carnal or sensual pleasures."

These are all *internal matters* of the heart. And, we can see how some of them are reflected in civil laws or even being taught in some of the government schools today. I'm sure you can think of some examples on your own.

Matthew Henry's Commentary also addresses how individuals in this state of heart and mind excuse their choices because of hypocrisies they see among Christians:

- external performances (e.g. doing acts of benevolence for show)
- partial reformations (not continuing to grow in grace and truth and to live it out)
- blind zeal (i.e. from Webster's 1828: blind "Passionate ardor in the pursuit of any thing."

Matthew Henry addresses the effect of the above internal causes and that is: 'Self-deceivers will prove in the end self-destroyers.'

As already mentioned, the internal matters being addressed are due to: 1. a lack of understanding God's principles; 2. a lack of integrity—walking them out in one's life.

Without discernment, liberty becomes lost to the individual and to nations. We have to always go back to *why* the internal is so key. We want full reformation of the heart and of the mind (a renewing of the mind). This begins with learning and understanding God's principles, the way He designed the functions of *government*, and the way He designed the *spheres of government.*

People don't know what they don't know. For this reason, discipleship of Christians and of our children is highly important. And, it all begins with accepting God's sovereignty.

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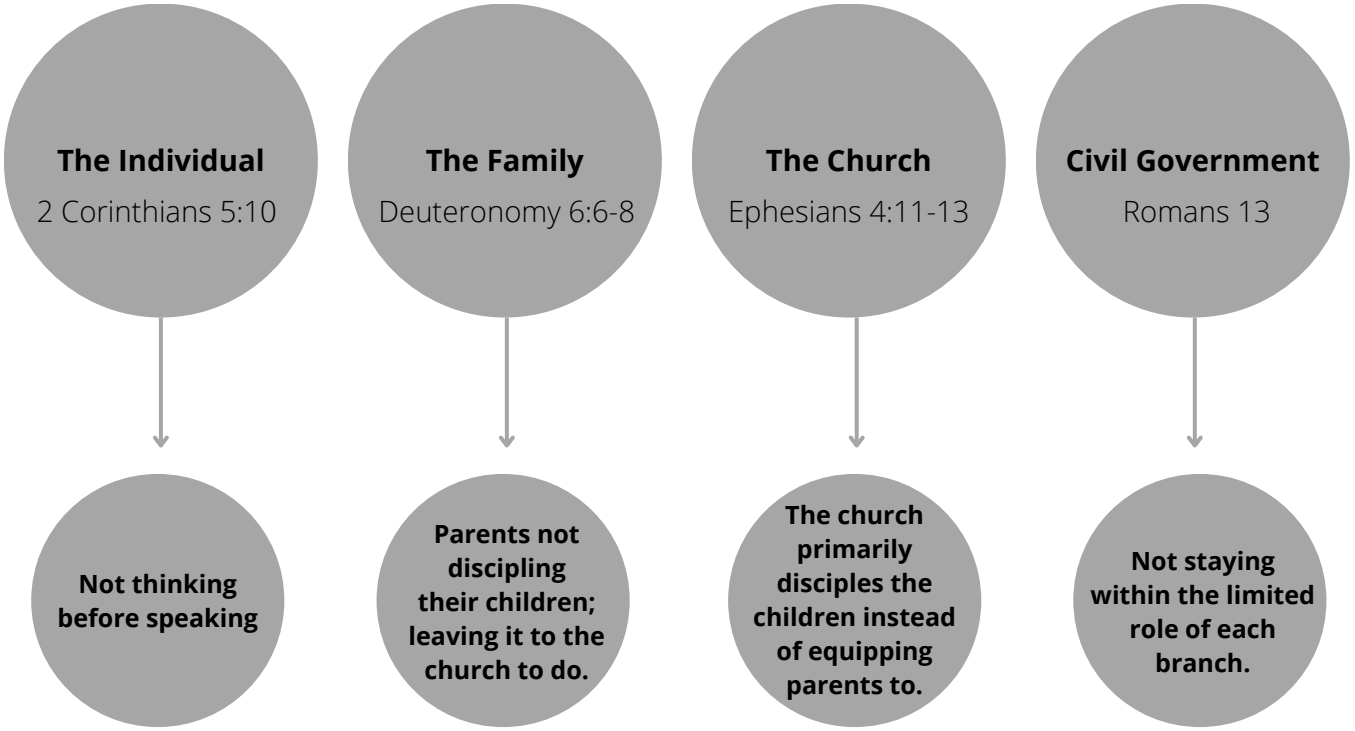
Below is a visual example of violating the three functions of government within the four spheres of government (listed below). Think of examples on your own for The Family and The Church (optional).



Let's expand on the example for The Individual.

See James 1:19-20 for instructions on what to plan, what to judge, what to do.

Plan: be quick to listen; be slow to speak; be slow to anger

Judge: "Am I quick to listen?"; "Am I slow to speak?"; "Am I slow to anger?"

Execute: "I'm choosing to be governed by Christ so that I'm quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger."

The above example regarding James 1:19-20 is an example of "thinking governmentally." Learning how to operate within the three functions of government helps us to live governmentally under Christ.

So, for now keep in mind that we want to internalize the matters of philosophy of government. Also, keep in mind that we are to practice analyzing these things within the four spheres of government when we see the opportunity to do this in any given subject/area of life.

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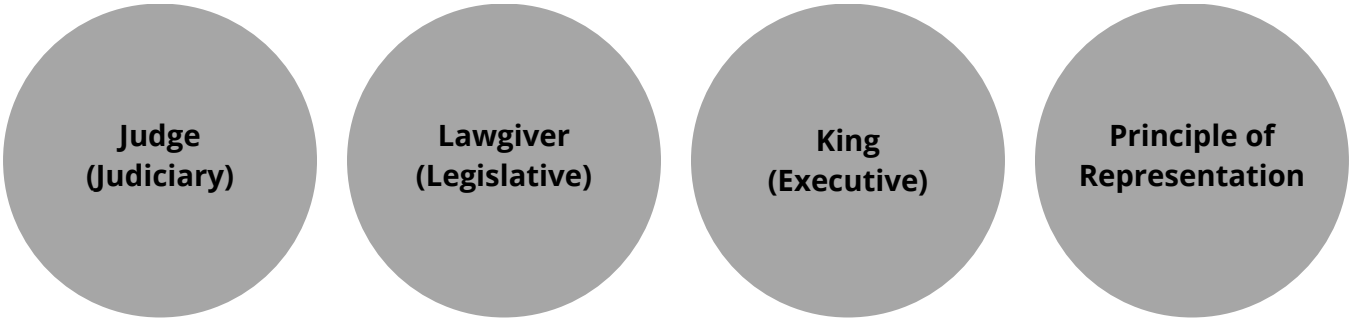
We see that the three functions of government are a part of the attributes of God. Isaiah 33:22 teaches us: "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us." (KJV)

Additionally, we see that the Principle of Representation is seen in the Bible. Exodus 18:25 teaches us: "And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

Acts 6:1-3 also shows us the Principle of Representation at work.

Of note, America's Founding Fathers acknowledged that man (being made in God's image) can judge, plan, and do. However, they also acknowledged man's sinful nature and that it can tend to move toward tyranny. Therefore, they wisely separated the functions of government into three branches of government (allowing for checks and balances). That said, they also understood the dangers of a full democracy. For this reason, they added the Principle of Representation as a part of our ***form*** of government.



This all ties into the philosophy of a Biblical-Principle Approach way of life and learning because government isn't necessarily referring to civil government. It's initially referring to self-government. It begins first with the individual's relationship with Christ Jesus and the individual's response to Holy God. Then, it ripples outward to the family, the church, the local community, the state, and the nation as a whole.

Knowing and comprehending God's Principles of Liberty, the three functions of government, and the spheres of government are foundational to life and subjects that we study.

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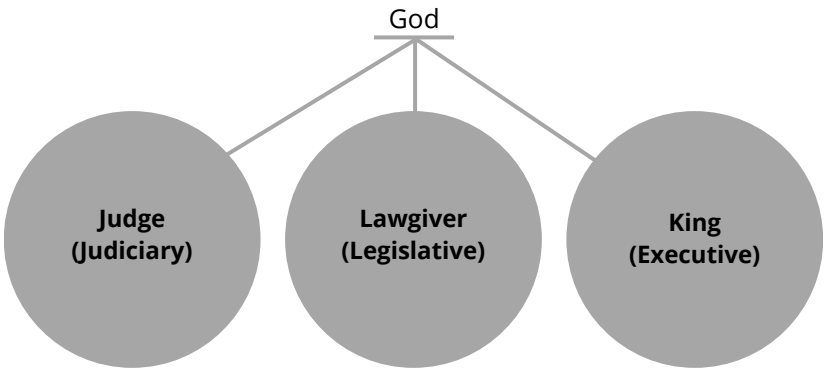
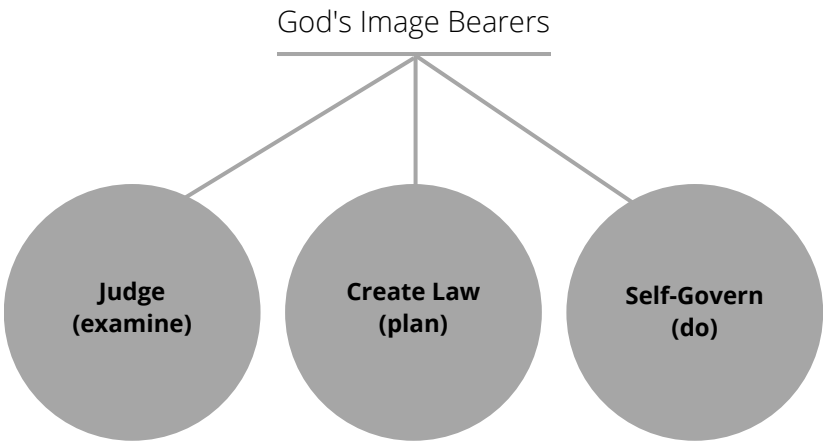
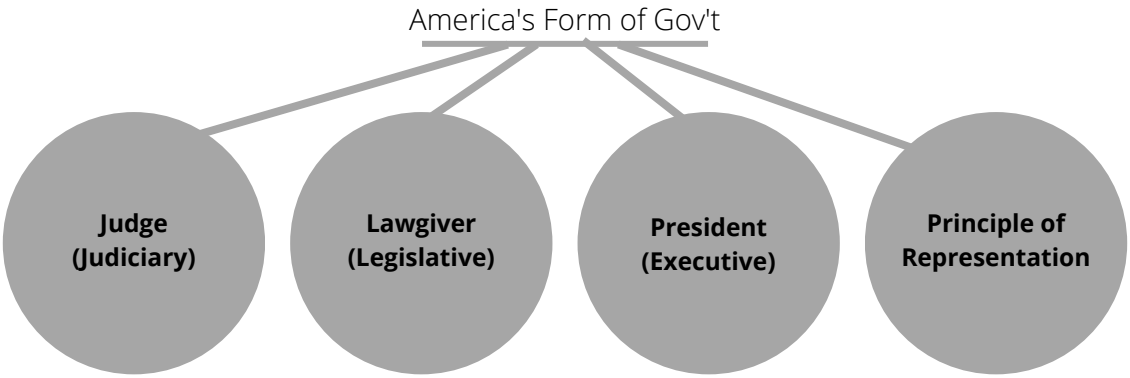
Below is another way to visually organize the three functions of government:







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Assignment 1: Identify the three functions of government in our Constitutional Federal Representative Republic.

Assignment 2: Explain the four spheres of government in your own words.

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Assignment 3: Reason from Exodus 18:25 and Acts 6:1-3 about the Principle of Representation and how it is reflected in our Constitutional Representative Republic.

Assignment 4: What is an "ah-ha" moment for you, gives you clarity, or impacts you from this lesson? Write it down below and post it in the community.

Optional Assignment: Identify some areas of life where you see the roles of the individual, family, church, and civil government honoring their God-given roles. Where do you see them violated? How can you help restore their honor?

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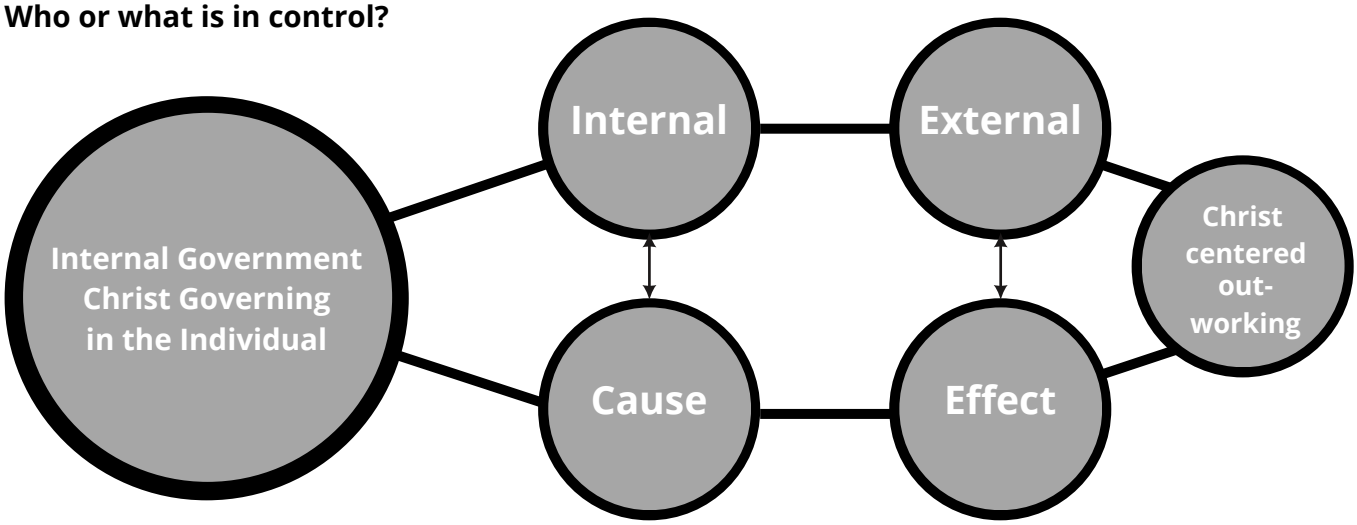
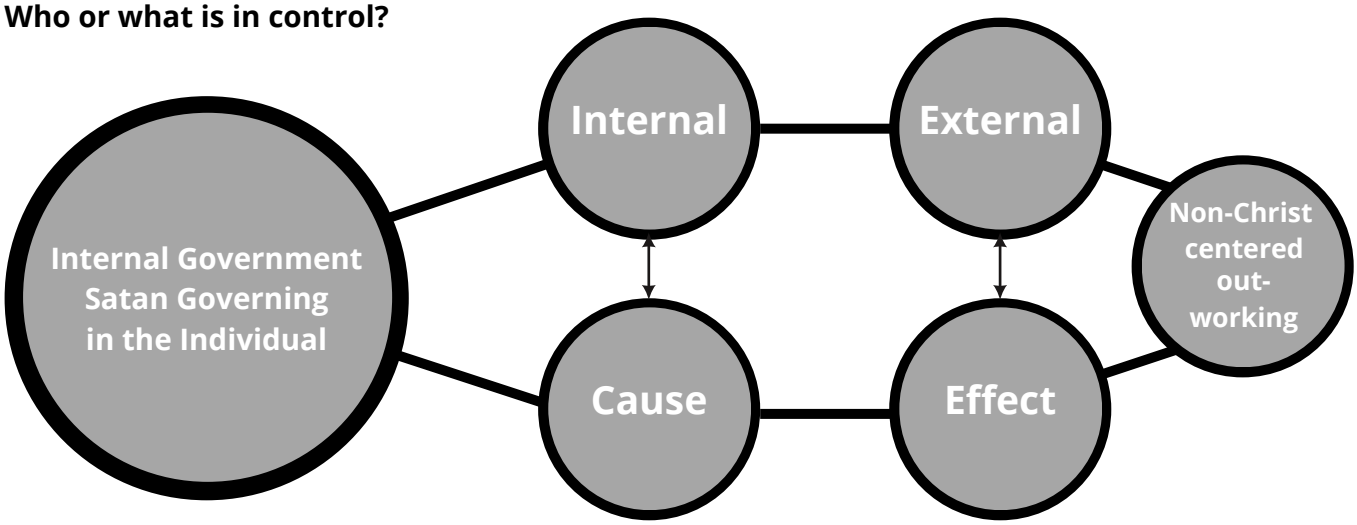
Who or what is in control?



If it is Christ, then God's principles for life and liberty are valued, honored, kept, and restored.

Who or what is in control?



If it is Satan, then God's principles for life and liberty are violated.

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Webster's 1828 Dictionary, government: direction, regulation, control, restraint.

We want to choose Christ to govern in and through us. As image bearers of God, we can plan, judge, and do. This gives us the ability to intelligently make wise choices.

It's all about Christ being the Focal Point—it's all about His principles. We can choose to honor His principles and moral law.

Assignment 1: Use the T-Chart below to practice writing down your observations of the internal qualities and external qualities of a main character in a *story. Look for the outworking of these qualities. (See the next page for examples.)

Internal Qualities	External Qualities

***You can integrate this with your Bible reading by doing this with an individual you read about in the Bible.**

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Webster's 1828 Dictionary, government: direction, regulation, control, restraint.

Read "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter. You can read it for free at this link: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14838/14838-h/14838-h.htm

Tip: Another way to think of "internal to external" is "as a man thinks in his heart, so he will be." Another way to think "cause to effect" is "if this, then that."

Example Assignment 1:

Peter Rabbit

Internal Qualities	External Qualities
He didn't control himself/disobeyed his mother.	He went to Mr. McGregor's garden anyway.
He made the decision to steal.	He stole food from Mr. McGregor's garden.
He didn't restrain himself.	He at too much and got an upset stomach.

***You can integrate this with your Bible reading by doing this with an individual you read about in the Bible.**

Module 1 Review

In this module, you learned or reinforced your convictions of:

- philosophy and that it's *internal, pertaining to the heart*
- God's sovereignty
- the importance of forming this conviction
- the need for this foundational conviction
- that it's a foundation to begin with when teaching your children
- how internalizing God's sovereignty is linked to Christian self-government
- the three functions of government and their roles within the spheres of government
- the importance of learning and teaching God's principles, His design of the three functions of government, and the spheres of Government that God created

In this module, you reflect on:

- God's sovereignty from Scripture
- your personal acceptance of and submission to God's sovereignty
- how the fruits of the Holy Spirit spring from Christian self-government
- areas in your life where you need to practice Christian self-government
- the potential to violate the three proper functions of government and some consequences of doing so

In this module, you learned how to graphically organize and show your students:

- internal and external government in relation to the individual and nation (p. 4)
- the three functions of government (p. 8)
- His design of the three functions of government
- how the three functions of government may be violated (p. 11)
- how the three functions of government are attributes of God and are reflected in God's image bearers and in our form of government (p. 13)
- who or what is in control, internal (cause) and external (effect) (p. 16)
- how to use a T-chare for internal and external quality observations