



About the Course

Taught by Michael R. Winther, President of the Institute for Principle Studies (IPS), Biblical Principles of Government has been adapted from a 10-week course (20 hours of instruction) into a semester or year long course designed for adults and teenage students.

Biblical Principles of Government is difficult to describe because it deals with a broad variety of topics relating to family, church, and civil government. It includes teaching on history, evolution, economics, charity, education, and basic civics. Most of the concepts covered in the course have not been taught in American schools since before the Civil War. Students frequently comment, “Wow, I never knew that before!”

This is a fun course, but also one that will challenge students and make them think. IPS encourages families to take the course together because it generates lots of great family discussion. Although primarily designed for adults, the material is understandable to most children age 12 or over (perhaps younger in some cases). As one previous family noted, “It was the best use of 10 weeks that our family ever spent together.”

Because of the broad scope of the course material, there are benefits to the body of Christ that often surprise people. Here are a few examples:

Evangelism

Although the primary purpose of the course is to disciple the saints, we find that the subject does draw some unbelievers. Several students have given their lives to Christ because of some

of the apologetic material presented.

Strengthening Families

Although the Institute for Principle Studies is not explicitly a family support ministry, IPS does promote some very specific family activities as part of the strategy to compete in the culture wars. Many participants become motivated to read both their Bibles and important Christian works together as a family. Additionally, our teaching on authority and power presents biblical standards that apply to both government and family life. This provides considerable philosophical support to our efforts to help students fulfill the fifth commandment. Because many parents take the course with their teenage students, we find that these concepts are plugged into the family from both directions: parent and child.

Strengthening the Church

The Biblical Principles of Government course includes information on church history and the importance of building our churches to meet the needs of our communities.

...And the obvious

Of course, students will learn about good government, competing economic systems, and much more.

About Your Presenter

Michael R. Winther (1959 – 2021) was the President and Founder of the Institute for Principle Studies (IPS), an educational non-profit organization dedicated to teaching the principles, philosophy, and purpose of government from a Christian perspective.

Mr. Winther sat on the Board of Scholars at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and attained a degree in Political Science from the University of Idaho. After graduating from the University of Idaho, Mike worked as a professional campaign consultant in Washington and California. Later, Mr. Winther served for 19 years as the Executive Director for the Society for the Handicapped, a non-profit organization assisting the disabled.

As a lifelong student of history and government, Mike felt a burden to teach the important principles of government and economics—principles that were known by many of our founding fathers, but unfortunately were forgotten a generation later. Mr. Winther has written numerous

articles and essays and frequently participates on radio broadcasts. He is also the co-developer of the Biblical Principles of Government curriculum.

Mike led tours of historical places and events on the East Coast where he taught about the real foundations of America. As a frequent speaker at conferences and conventions, he taught government, economics, and history to audiences throughout the country.

Mike also has an extensive background in forensics (debate). He has participated in speech and debate activities as both coach and competitor. He was also a frequent speaker at debate camps and workshops and regularly presented at conferences for many speech and debate leagues across the country.

Mike and his wife, Mary, coached a homeschool debate club for over 20 years; competing in leagues such as the Home School Legal Defense Association, the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association, and Stoa USA Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate League. Mike and Mary are the authors of the textbook titled, *“Rhetoric Through Policy Debate.”*

About IPS

Founded in 2005, the Institute for Principle Studies (IPS) is a Christian discipleship and parachurch ministry headquartered in Modesto, California. The mission of IPS is to reform society and culture through various educational efforts focused on rediscovering, developing, and teaching biblical principles of government and economics.

We refer to “rediscovery” because most of the principles that we research and teach were known by many of our nation’s founders, but have not been taught in American classrooms, public or private, for over 150 years.

Through research and study of the principles and philosophies of government, economics and history, the Institute for Principle Studies evaluates and teaches, through a variety of media, about the ethics, morality and consequences of good and bad government.

Over the years, the Institute for Principle Studies has created several programs and activities to reach across the nation and train citizens, including the next generation of our country’s leaders. Classes, conferences, and seminars are our primary outreach, but we also continue to minister through other programs, such as:

- Adult & Parent Education
- Student & Teacher Training

- Church & Pastoral Outreach
- Publishing & Multimedia
- Curated Book & Digital Offerings

Our current projects could realistically reach millions of people with our message, but we cannot advance in this work without the support of new and continuing donors. As noted in the next article, the Institute for Principle Studies is one of the few organizations that is attacking the real cause of human suffering—and even a 1% improvement in government saves millions of people from unnecessary suffering over the ensuing decades.

The task ahead of us is monumental. Our goal is nothing short of reversing 175 years of societal decay. In fact, we are asking God to use IPS not only to reverse this American slide, but also to lay a deeper and broader foundation of biblical principle than we ever had before. Changing hearts and transforming minds with the truth is absolutely necessary if we are to have any hope of stemming the tide of socialism that is flooding our nation and threatening our freedom and liberty. The Institute for Principle Studies is a non-partisan, tax-exempt, research and educational non-profit organization officially recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. IPS neither receives nor accepts government funding in any form. Instead, IPS partners financially with a diverse range of private foundations, businesses, churches and individuals. For further information and online resources, visit www.PrincipleStudies.org