

BIBLICAL CIVICS

A Workbook for

**UNDER
GOD**

KEVIN SWANSON

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This student workbook is intended as a basic introduction to biblical civics, God's law as related to civil government, the history of civil governments, and what constitutes good or bad government.

Here at the end of the secular age, this time at which humanism and its political derivatives of socialism and communism have proven miserable failures, Christians above all are called to bring a biblical standard to bear. This is the only hope for restoring stability, sanity, and peace to our respective nations and communities. After the bankrupted economic theories of Marx and Keynes have finished their ruinous course, and after the revolutions and world wars have scorched the whole earth, what comes next? The last two centuries have played out more iterations of the Lord Christ bringing His enemies under His footstool. This is the time to equip the men and women of God in every good work, including that which extends to the civil magistrate. Once more, Christians who populate every country in the world are called to be the preserving "salt of the earth."

This course is designed as a comprehensive guide to national, state, and local governments, bringing a biblical standard to the operations of all branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial). The American experiment remains a standard to which we may all repair, and careful analysis is made to the successes and failures, the benefits and drawbacks of this historical experience.

Within the public sphere of the state, every believer is still called to "cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). Bad worldviews in the form of "philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Col. 2:8) press in. Prayerfully, this course will root and ground the student such that he will not be caught up with "every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (Eph. 2:14). This course gets down to God's standards for ethics, justice, sphere jurisdictions, political strategies, the character of the godly leader, biblical economics, brave-new-world technologies, and rules of warfare.

What This Course is Not Intended For

The predominant view of the state or civil government is wrong. Modern citizens, almost universally, recognize the state as the "savior," the main thing in human society, and the solution to all our problems. This modern socialist-democratic view of the state has been extremely harmful to human society and to the Christian faith itself. The student will find there is much to repent of as a biblical view of all things is reviewed in this course. Suffice it to say, this course is not intended to place an over-emphasis on the state, or to equip young students to get out there to "save the world" by involvement in politics.

Nonetheless, all Christians everywhere must submit every area of life, including their voting patterns, to the feet of the King of kings and the rule of His law. This is what disciples of Jesus do.

This full-year, high school level course covers the following textbooks:

- Kevin Swanson, *Under God: A Battle Plan for Reforming Civil Government* (Generations, 2026)

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

- Kevin Swanson and Julianna Dotten, *US Civics* (Generations, 2026)

Course Objectives

It is the sincere hope of this author that students who study this course will:

- Submit all things to the rule of Jesus Christ, not to exclude any area of life (including the political)
- Be rooted and grounded in the principles of God's Word, to avoid all confusion when reading news stories or hearing from political candidates
- Better discern the worldviews assumed by political candidates when they make their brave speeches or advance their policies
- Better worship and serve God, and love Him with heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Discern the opportunities, the gifting, and the calling God has ordained for their own lives
- Improve their knowledge of the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures, to better equip the man and woman of God to every good work

Vocabulary and Terms

The vocabulary in this course may stretch the student at points. But keep in mind, vocabulary building is one of the most worthwhile pursuits a student will undertake in the academic effort. Those persons who gain a strong vocabulary are typically better communicators, thinkers, readers, and influencers. Having a good vocabulary is extremely helpful when reading material tied into any discipline. For the purposes of this course, therefore, students will learn new words and terms.

Reading Strategies

For students who are having difficulties keeping up, remember that comprehending the content is more important than strictly following the schedule. Students may wish to break up the reading assignments into more manageable chunks. Taking notes on the reading, marking up the text in the margins, and asking questions along the way help with both comprehension and retention. Teacher/parents may ask the students to summarize the main points of the passage in their own words. To better understand the material, the student may also refer back to previous material and always pay attention to the headings in the text. The reader does best when curiosity is piqued, when he/she agrees or disagrees with the text, or when the text bears special relevance to current issues.

Devotional Elements and Practical Application

There are many traps when one approaches the subject of theology, biblical law, and government. An over-academic approach can easily yield a foolish pride and a lack of the fear of God. To speak of God, Jesus Christ, and His will for us in an impersonal, detached, or academic way denies His personality. Or to consider God's holiness, wrath, justice, mercy, love, and power, without a response of love, faith, fear, worship, and obedience would prove counterproductive to the entire course, and perhaps even soul-hardening.

To that end, this student workbook includes biblical study and personal application questions. Throughout the text, this author has attempted to include devotional content. This material cannot be glossed over, but much of the content is meant for deep meditation, thoughtful consideration, and a worshipful response. The life application questions are intended for prayer, testimony, and worship. May it be used in this manner.

Challenge

The “Critical Thinking” questions and “Life Application” will be more challenging. Therefore, we would recommend that the student provide answers for only one each of these exercises, but take a little extra time to think through it and interact with it.

Oral Engagement

Although the workbook provides a useful exercise in requiring written answers, one of the best forms of learning comes by oral discussions with the parent-teacher. Whether this is done formally in a class setting or around the dinner table doesn’t matter. The more there is back-and-forth, question-answer, and discussion on these topics, the better the academic experience.

Two Courses

This study guide supplements two courses for high school level civics. The US Civics course will accelerate the “Biblical Civics” portion to 7 months, leaving 2 months for study in the US Civics Course.

The student may either (1) read only *Under God* and use the *Biblical Civics* Student Workbook to complete the relevant assignments for *Under God*. Or they may (2) read both *Under God* and *US Civics* and complete all the relevant assignments in the *Biblical Civics* Student Workbook.

Grading Options for the Course

1. Study lessons for each chapter may be graded according to the following scale, as far as the student finishes the work satisfactorily:

- Vocabulary — 1 point per problem
- Biblical Study — 2 points per problem
- Study Questions — 2 points per problem
- Critical Thinking — 5 points per problem
- Life Application — No points recommended

2. The course may be graded according to the following scale:

<i>Under God</i> Lessons	75%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

If the Generations' *US Civics* segment is included in this course, the grading may be weighted as follows:

<i>Under God</i> Lessons	60%
Final Exam	15%
<i>US Civics</i>	25%
Total	100%

Above all, our prayer is that each student taking this course will understand what it means to:

- Take down “arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God
- Bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ
- And be ready “to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Cor. 10:5-6)

COURSE LESSON SCHEDULE 1

UA - Under God
BC Wkbk - Biblical Civics Workbook
U.S.Civ - U.S. Civics Textbook

First Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
FIRST SEMESTER—FIRST QUARTER					
Week 1	1	Read UA Chapter 1			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 1			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 1			
Week 2	1	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
Week 3	1	Read UA Chapter 2			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 2			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 2			
Week 4	1	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 5	1	Read UA Chapter 3			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 3			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 3			
Week 6	1	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
Week 7	1	Read UA Chapter 4			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 4			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 4			
Week 8	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 4			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 4			
	5				
Week 9	1	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			

Course Lesson Schedule 1

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
FIRST SEMESTER—SECOND QUARTER					
<i>Week 1</i>	1	Read UA Chapter 5			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 5			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 5			
<i>Week 2</i>	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 5			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 5			
	5				
<i>Week 3</i>	1	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
<i>Week 4</i>	1	Read UA Chapter 6			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 6			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 6			
<i>Week 5</i>	1	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 6	1	Read UA Chapter 7			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 7			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 7			
Week 7	1	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			
Week 8	1	Read UA Chapter 8			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 8			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 8			
Week 9	1	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
Mid-Term Grade					

Course Lesson Schedule 1

Second Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
SECOND SEMESTER—THIRD QUARTER					
Week 1	1	Read UA Chapter 9			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 9			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 9			
Week 2	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 9			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 9			
	5				
Week 3	1	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
Week 4	1	Read UA Chapter 10			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 10			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 10			
Week 5	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 10			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 10			
	5				

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 6	1	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
Week 7	1	Read UA Chapter 11			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 11			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 11			
Week 8	1	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			
Week 9	1	Read UA Chapter 12			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 12			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 12			
SECOND SEMESTER—FOURTH QUARTER					
Week 1	1	Chapter 12 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 12 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Final Exam			

Course Lesson Schedule 1

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 2	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 1 – Lsn.1.1-1.3			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 1 – Lsn.1.4-1.6			
	5				
Week 3	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 2 – Lsn.2.1-2.2			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 2 – Lsn.2.3-2.4			
	5				
Week 4	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 2 – Lsn.2.5			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 2 – Lsn.2.6			
	5				
Week 5	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 3 – Lsn.3.1-3.3			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 3 – Lsn.3.4-3.5			
	5				
Week 6	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 4 – Lsn.4.1-4.3			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 4 – Lsn.4.4-4.5			
	5				
Week 7	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 5 – Lsn.5.1-5.3			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 5 – Lsn.5.4-5.5			
	5				

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 6 – Lsn.6.1-6.2			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 6 – Lsn.6.3-6.4			
	5				
Week 9	1				
	2	U.S.Civ Unit 6 – Lsn.6.5			
	3				
	4	U.S.Civ Unit 6 – Lsn.6.6			
	5				
Final Grade					

COURSE LESSON SCHEDULE 2

Key: UA - Under God
BC Wkbk - Biblical Civics Workbook

First Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
FIRST SEMESTER—FIRST QUARTER					
Week 1	1	Read UA Chapter 1			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 1			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 1			
Week 2	1	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 1 BC Wkbk			
Week 3	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 2			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 2			
	5				
Week 4	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 2			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 2			
	5				

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 5	1	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 2 BC Wkbk			
Week 6	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 3			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 3			
	5				
Week 7	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 3			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 3			
	5				
Week 8	1	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 3 BC Wkbk			
Week 9	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 4			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 4			
	5				

Course Lesson Schedule 2

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
FIRST SEMESTER—SECOND QUARTER					
<i>Week 1</i>	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 4			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 4			
	5				
<i>Week 2</i>	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 4			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 4			
	5				
<i>Week 3</i>	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 4			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 4			
	5				
<i>Week 4</i>	1	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 4 BC Wkbk			
<i>Week 5</i>	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 5			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 5			
	5				

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 6	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 5			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 5			
	5				
Week 7	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 5			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 5			
	5				
Week 8	1	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 5 BC Wkbk			
Week 9	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 6			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 6			
	5				
Mid-Term Grade					

Course Lesson Schedule 2

Second Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
SECOND SEMESTER—THIRD QUARTER					
Week 1	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 6			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 6			
	5				
Week 2	1	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 6 BC Wkbk			
Week 3	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 7			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 7			
	5				
Week 4	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 7			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 7			
	5				
Week 5	1	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 7 BC Wkbk			

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 6	1	Read UA Chapter 8			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 8			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 8			
Week 7	1	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 8 BC Wkbk			
Week 8	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 9			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 9			
	5				
Week 9	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 9			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 9			
	5				
SECOND SEMESTER—FOURTH QUARTER					
Week 1	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 9			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 9			
	5				

Course Lesson Schedule 2

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 2	1	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 9 BC Wkbk			
Week 3	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 10			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 10			
	5				
Week 4	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 10			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 10			
	5				
Week 5	1	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 10 BC Wkbk			
Week 6	1				
	2	Read UA Chapter 11			
	3				
	4	Read UA Chapter 11			
	5				
Week 7	1	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 11 BC Wkbk			

BIBLICAL CIVICS WORKBOOK

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	1	Read UA Chapter 12			
	2				
	3	Read UA Chapter 12			
	4				
	5	Read UA Chapter 12			
Week 9	1	Chapter 12 BC Wkbk			
	2				
	3	Chapter 12 BC Wkbk			
	4				
	5	Chapter 12 BC Wkbk			
Final Grade					

CIVIL GOVERNMENT UNDER GOD

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God.

ROMANS 13:1

Vocabulary and Terminology

Authority
Omniscience
Omnipotence

Sovereignty
Capital Punishment
Sphere of Jurisdiction

Lex Talionis

Fill in the appropriate term or word for the following sentences. Use the vocabulary list of key terms for the chapter.

1. God has assigned a _____ for family, church, and state.
2. We can rest in God's _____, and know that He has an all-wise purpose for the things that happen in the world.
3. God is the source of all _____, and all governments derive their right to rule from Him.
4. God's _____ indicates his supreme right to legislate law and enforce that law over all.
5. When a criminal receives the sanction of _____, he is ushered quickly into the Higher Court for a final judgment.
6. The biblical standard of "eye for eye" and "tooth for tooth" is an example of the _____ principle.
7. No power in heaven and earth can possibly compete with the _____ of God.

Bible Study

1. Reference Revelation 1:5 and Ephesians 1:22. What is the role of Jesus right now, in relation to the rulers of the earth?

2. According to Psalm 2:10-12, what will a wise ruler do? Why is this appropriate?

3. What are the legitimate roles of government, according to Romans 13?

4. According to Romans 13:4-5 and Romans 12:19-20, what is “good” vengeance” and what is “bad vengeance?”

5. Reference Psalm 9:15-20. What sin characterizes wicked nations? What will God do with these nations? How do you see this in your nation?

Review Questions

1. Why is God over all things, including the governments of this world?

2. What does witchcraft have to do with rebellion against God in places of power?

3. What does it mean to say that God is sovereign?

4. How do governments seek to achieve omnipotence and omniscience for themselves? Use China as an example.

5. What did the President of South Korea do wrong on December 3, 2024?

6. How has America been uniquely blessed through the centuries?

7. What happened to Rome and the Jews after they crucified Jesus, and when did this happen?

8. How long do tyrants reign, given some of the examples contained in this chapter? Provide at least 2 examples.

9. God has ordained three spheres of jurisdiction. What are they? What roles and responsibilities has God given to each of them? List at least two for each.

10. In the modern world, which sphere of jurisdiction is most prone to usurp its bounds of legitimate authority from other jurisdictions? For this sphere, what examples of overreach are mentioned in the text? Provide 2 or more examples.

11. What does the biblical lex talionis law require when somebody is harmed in a fight (or by abuse)? Reference Exodus 21:23-25.

12. What are the biblical limits to government spending as outlined in 1 Samuel 8:10-18?

13. What is the basic principle that Jesus outlines in Matthew 22:15-21. Finish this statement: What the government funds _____.

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Of the quotes from US Presidents contained in this chapter, which ones would you consider to be the most biblical or more God-fearing?

2. How problematic is it that the King of England has control over the Church of England, and appoints the Archbishop over the church?

Life Application Questions

1. Has your family, your church, your friends, or yourself made too much or too little out of civil government? How might this be corrected? What biblical passage(s) might be helpful to balance this out?

2. How have you been under authority? Are you submitting to the authorities over you? Which jurisdiction do you struggle with the most? How can you better recognize and respect the authorities God has put over you?
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