

- (1) statement
- (2) theocratic churches
- (3) reactions within and against
- c. The concepts of a "Gospel Age"
- d. The American Dream
 - (1) The Patents
 - (2) Changes in toleration
 - (3) The Declaration of Independence...

Not many documents with so little actual Christian content have had such a strong and forceful influence within the church.
 - (4) The Constitution

I have the class of this year (1988) reading LaHaye's work on the religious aspects of the Constitution drafters.
 - (5) The Dream in the reality of life.
- e. Various interpretations of the "religious" freedom aspect
 - (1) to be or not to be religious
 - (2) to choose or not to choose a particular religion
 - (3) to deny any religion, claim, or hold on the conscience of man

2. The Beginning of the controversy: The Roger Williams caper

Without doubt, none of the Scrooby congregation separatists or the Salem Puritans, intended to grant any sort of freedom of conscience beyond what they allowed for themselves. It would be a long time before this sort of thinking was overcome. Those whose minds were not with the assembled congregation, and there were always some, were either returned to England (or some outpost) or exiled inland...or punished in some way so as to make their views unpopular or altered to fit the pattern of conformity. We have sketched earlier the general career of Williams and his colleague, Clark, and here must pick him up in greater detail for this particular aspect of our work.

a. The conflict:

--Williams and his wife sailed from England in 1630 and arrived in New England on Feb. 5, 1631. He had an Oxford education, was a capable spokesman and, so far as anyone knew, was "orthodox" in the Puritan definition of that term. He established no fellowship at Boston and went to Salem to preach where he soon was on the wrong side of the government --and consequently went to Plymouth in 1631 (summer) ..his disagreements were in church order, doubts of the sacrament, etc. In 1633 he returned to Salem where he became involved in conflict with Cotton but was nevertheless invited to accept a preaching post in 1634. A storm