

But at this point we note that those who argued against Williams did so on the ground that confusion and rebellion would rule if every man had this sort of freedom.

It must be noted that Williams, though the best identified of the group, was only one of the many forces that sought this sort of freedom. The quakers were loud in the call (and they were willing to grant it to others...they were not "theocratic") and the pioneer spirits of Anne Hutchinson, et al, were on a similar key. What they were pursuing was the right of individuality in regard to conscience...a right of individuality lived out in an agreeable society. Defiance of the law was not the issue...the limits of law were the issues.

We have earlier noted the development of Rhode Island and the difficulties felt there and in the other colonies with regard to this conscience right to know God. We will not repeat that discussion nor that of the establishments in the various states. But this was foundational to the problem and it is the clearest expression of the anguish that existed between people and their constitutional allegiance.

The result of the Williams conflict did not end all religious persecution but it paved a way, particularly in the middle colonies, for people of different convictions to live in acceptance of each other. And that probably was the first step that eventually gave a full freedom to soul and conscience in this land.

4. Pragmatic steps leading to religious liberty.

I am just going to list these ...the ideas are fairly common and should be well understood. Some comment may come forth in class.

- a. Fraternalization
- b. Loss of colonial or national church charters
- c. Irritation with and from established bodies
- d. Activity of deists, free thinkers, etc.
- e. Acceptance of revolutionary ideals
- f. Loss of corporate accountability and the incursion of conscience accountability.

5. Thinking questions on the matter of religious freedom, libert of conscience, etc.

- a. How important is the "seamless robe" ideology?