

Two book covers are displayed against a blue background. The left cover is purple and white, titled "FUNDAMENTALS FOR AMERICAN CHRISTIANS VOLUME ONE GUIDE BOOK" by the PLYMOUTH ROCK FOUNDATION. The right cover is blue and white, titled "FACS! Fundamentals For American Christians" by RUS WALTON. Below the covers, the text reads: "Foundations of a Biblical Worldview Lesson Ten – Christ's Law of Love". A small number "1" is in the bottom right corner.

## A Review of Biblical Presuppositions in FACS

- Section One: The Bible is our ultimate standard:
  - As dual citizens darkness cannot conquer where light prevails
- Section Two: The Source and Quality of Govt
  - The flow of government (law and gospel) begins in the heart
- Section Three: The Sovereignty of God
  - Christ is both Savior and King (Lord, Sovereign)
- Section Four: God's Principle of Individuality
  - Men and women are unique; created in God's image
  - Only individuals, empowered by God's example, can love

## Individualism defined...

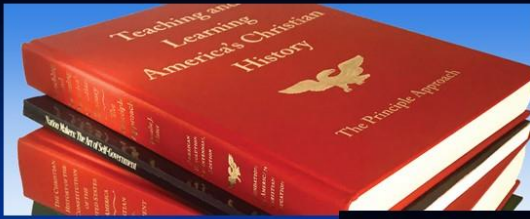
- Individualism (New Collegiate Dictionary) – *a doctrine that the interests of the individual are or ought to be ethically paramount; (2) the conception that all values, rights and duties originate in individuals*
  - Hedonism – *self-gratification; self-pleasure*
  - Narcissism – *love of one's body, ego; self-image*
- Impact of this “principle”
  - An idolatry of self permeates every aspect of our culture
  - Though recognizing individual rights, it removes responsibilities
  - Dethroning God, no wonder individualism said “God is dead”

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## Individuality defined...

- Individuality (1828 Dictionary) – *separate or distinct existence; a state of oneness (single by union; undivided)*
  - Unique character, personality *and* responsibility
  - Manifestation of true freedom under God's law
  - Infinite variation – distinctiveness of each individual; yet all created by God and thus in a state of oneness (unity with diversity)
- Impact of the Principle after the Great Reformation
  - God gave each individual independent value “in His image”
  - The Christian “idea of man” balances rights with responsibilities
  - It impacted the Church and then society and civil government

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[Christian History of the Constitution of the U.S.](#)

Go to [face.net](http://face.net) for these valuable resources

## The Christian Idea of Man and Government

### Richard Frothingham's *Rise of the Republic of the United States*

- ... the period of the Reformation... in its essence, was the assertion of the principle of individuality, or true spiritual freedom...
- ... it was natural and inevitable, that inquiry should widen out from the realm of the Church into that of the State. Then a fresh impetus was given to that transformation of society which began when Christianity – the basis of the good, permanent and progressive in modern civilization – first appeared in the world.

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## Individualism moves to Collectivism

Individualism	Individuality	Collectivism
<p><u>Evolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An accident of chance           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hedonism (self)</li> <li>■ Narcissism (body)</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Rights with no responsibilities</li> <li>■ Individual the source of rights - <i>anarchy</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Creation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A Creation of God           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Uniquely distinct</li> <li>■ Liberty under Law</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Rights with the responsibility to love</li> <li>■ Individual equality in Church <i>and</i> State</li> </ul>	<p><u>Statism (Marxism)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A creation of the State           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Less than the group</li> <li>■ A productive unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Only government granted privileges</li> <li>■ Collective inequality of individuals - <i>tyranny</i></li> </ul>



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## Individuality and Christ's Law of Love

- Humanists assert *that Christians are so preoccupied with God that they are too busy to do anything about the pressing problems that beset man.*
- Rus Walton – *The individual who is truly 'pre-occupied' with living his or faith in Jesus Christ must also be 'occupied' with the problems of his fellow man – not 'mass man' but individual men. It is often easier to love 'mankind' than it is to love an individual.*
- Our love for God is *revealed* by our love for others!

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## God's Word on our earthly responsibilities

- Matthew 25:40 – *...I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.*
- James 3:17 – *But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?*
- 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:20-21 – *If someone says "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ...he who loves God must love his brother also.*

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## The Choice has consequences for All...

- *We directly love, serve and minister to those around us as individuals and churches in His name...*
  - Jesus emphasized the value of one lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
  - Jesus taught us that one life is worthy dying for (John 15:13)
  - A man's soul is worth more than the whole world (Mk 8:36-37)
- *...Or we do so in our name through Caesar (civil government) – for God will have mercy on those in need!*
  - States, systems and government (Caesar) cannot love
  - Government welfare tends not to empower, but yield entitlements
  - *However, God's mercy is evident due to the absence of the Church!*

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## The Consequence? An Entitlement World

- Entitlements - an unwritten attitude creating a “declaration of dependence” on government subsidies vs. God
- Entitlement Growth – 1960 to 2010
  - Public benefit for which no service is rendered
  - Increased from 24 billion to 2.2 trillion (100x)
  - 50+% of the populace supported by public funds
  - Entitlements account for 2/3 of federal budget
- What happens when benefits the government guarantees (medicaid, medicare, social security, pensions, etc.) far outweighs the revenue in a nation?

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## National Entitlement Contrasts

### 1910

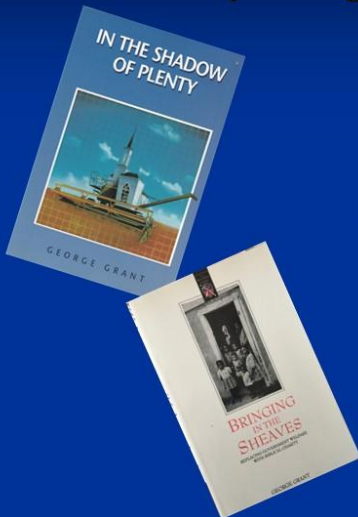
- Individuals – *healthy, modest, honest*
- Marriage - 7% divorce rate
- Children - toys hand-made; *Bible, Call of the Wild, Anne of Green Gables*
  - no television, movies, hidden media)
- Neighbors – charity private (care)
- Churches – 28/10,000; 357 avg; 42.2% ev
- Society – alcohol down; tobacco rise
- Schools – began with prayer and Bible reading; biggest problems were gum chewing, talking out of turn, and not handing in homework regularly...

### 2010

- Individuals - *unhealthy, immodest...*
- Marriage - 55% div. rate – 60% cohab
- Children – toy fantasy; *Harry Potter, Hunger Games, Twilight, Zombies*
  - addicted to tv, movies, social media)
- Neighbors - charity public (isolate)
- Churches – 3.6/10,000; 2,788 avg; 14.5% ev
- Society – tob down; alc/drugs rise
- Schools – no prayer or Bible in school; little homework assigned, drugs, sex, violence, bullying and threats of shooting massacres...

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## Bringing in the Sheaves / In the Shadow of Plenty books by George Grant demonstrating Christ's law of love!



- The Micah (6:8) Mandate – *to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God*
- *In the Shadow of Plenty* – prosperity in America is within reach for most people if they would develop a work ethic
- *Bringing in the Sheaves* – charity is personal and begins at home and any church can begin to be salt and light

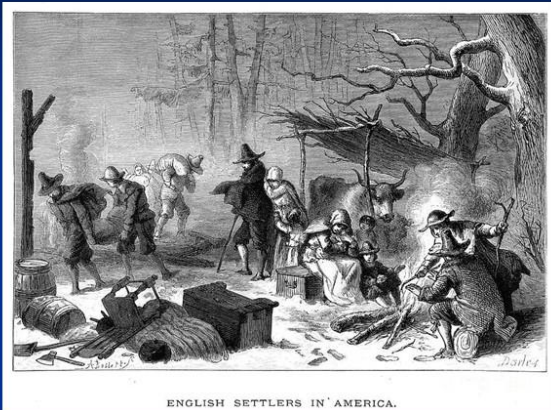
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## August Neander on the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church

*That which our Lord Himself, in His last interview with His disciples, described as the test by which His disciples might always be distinguished... namely, that they loved one another, precisely this constituted the mark, plain and striking to the pagans themselves, of the first Christian fellowship... the care of providing for the support and maintenance of strangers, of the poor, the sick, the old, the widows and orphans and those in prison on account of their faith, developed on the whole church... that from such works took the impress of a truly Christian character... of Christian love simply following the impulse from within...*

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## The first winter in Plymouth...



*...in the time of most distress, there was but six or seven sound persons who to their great commendations, be it spoken, spared no pains night nor day, but with abundance of toil and hazard of their own health, fetched them wood, made them fires, dressed them meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome clothes, clothed and unclothed them...*

*without any grudging in the least, showing herein their true love unto their friends and brethren, a rare example and worthy to be remembered.*

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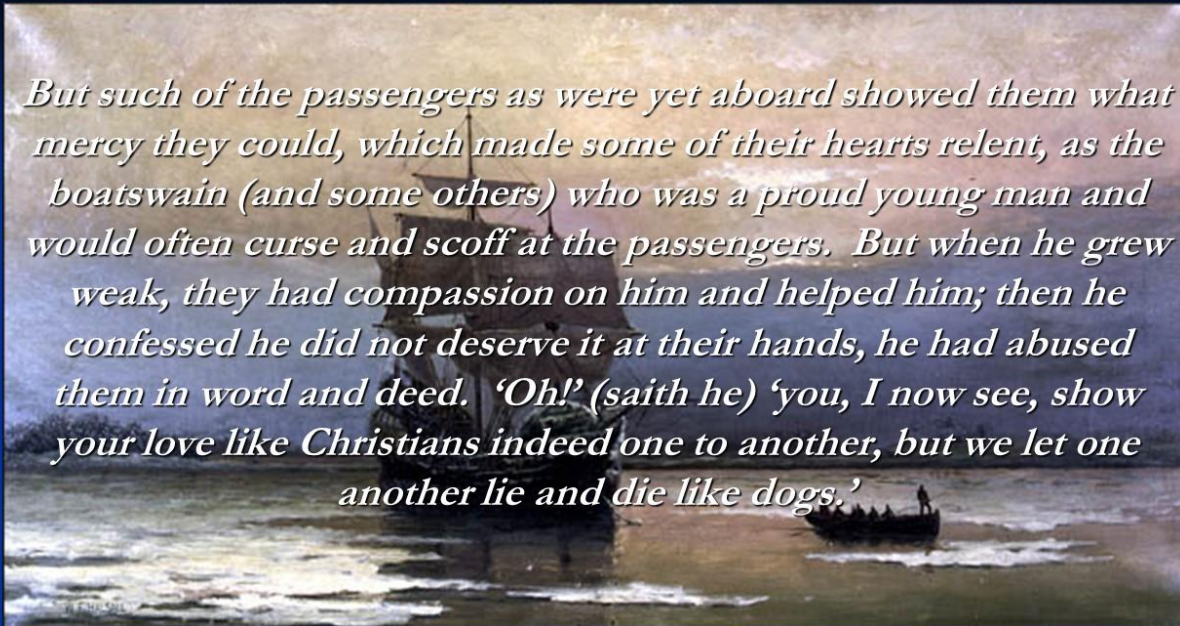
## A witness among Strangers...

*...they that had been boon companions in drinking and jollity in the time of their health and welfare, began now to desert one another in this calamity, saying they would not hazard their lives for them, they should be infected by coming to help them in their cabins; and so, after they came to lie by it would do little or nothing for them but, 'if they died, let them die.'*



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*But such of the passengers as were yet aboard showed them what mercy they could, which made some of their hearts relent, as the boatswain (and some others) who was a proud young man and would often curse and scoff at the passengers. But when he grew weak, they had compassion on him and helped him; then he confessed he did not deserve it at their hands, he had abused them in word and deed. 'Oh!' (saith he) 'you, I now see, show your love like Christians indeed one to another, but we let one another lie and die like dogs.'*



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## It is His Love flowing Through Us!

- 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8 - *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22 – *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.*
- John 15:10 – *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love...*
- Luke 6:27 – *But I say unto you who hear; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...*

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-8

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ■ Love suffers long                     | ■ Patience, not resentful              |
| ■ And is kind                           | ■ Kindness, seeks to do good           |
| ■ Love vaunts not itself, not puffed up | ■ Generosity, humility, not conceited  |
| ■ Does not behave itself unseemly       | ■ Courtesy, goodwill                   |
| ■ Seeks not her own                     | ■ Unselfishness, reaches out to others |
| ■ Is not easily provoked                | ■ Gracious, avoids anger               |
| ■ Thinks no evil                        | ■ Virtue rejects revenge or malice     |
| ■ Rejoices not in iniquity              | ■ Solitude, wishes ill to no one       |
| ■ Rejoices in the truth                 | ■ Sincerity, appreciates true justice  |
| ■ Bears all things                      | ■ Compassion, empathy                  |
| ■ Believes all things                   | ■ Trustful, judges well and wisely     |
| ■ Hopes all things                      | ■ Faithfulness                         |
| ■ Endures all things                    | ■ Long-suffering / not precipitous     |
| ■ Love never fails                      | ■ Constant / forever                   |

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## So where do we begin to practice His love?

- Cultivate God's love for you as well as His forgiveness
- Demonstrate love at home in our attitudes and actions
- Consider your neighbors and those who live closest to you... how might you do a kind deed in Christ's love for them?
- In your Church, who is in need? How might you help? In what area could you consider volunteering your time/service?
- In your City, where are the needs and how might you serve?
- Ask God how you might share with others – in attitude, word and deed, the mercy, love and forgiveness you have received?

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## Suggested reading from Lesson 10...

- Get the *FACS notebook or paperback and booklet of articles!*



- Read Lesson 10 of the notebook; Chapter 12 of the paperback
- Read the PRF newsletter *Christ's Law of Love* by Rus Walton
- Ponder the PowerPoint slides and/or review the recording

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