

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 dark blue with white text, titled "RUS WALTON FACS! Fundamentals For American Christians".

Foundations of a Biblical Worldview
Lesson Twelve – Conscience Most Sacred

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 and valuable; created in God's image
 - Individuals, by God's love, are the primary vessels of His Kingdom!

Property partially defined...

- Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary – *property is wealth of goods; specifically a piece of real estate or that which a person owns or to which he has legal title.*
- The Random House Dictionary – *Property - that which a person owns; the possession or possessions of a particular owner. Goods, lands, etc., considered as possessions; a piece of land or real estate.*
- To consider property only as an external thing is to ignore the “owner” or “steward”; and to ignore the heart (internal)

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The Word of God says...

- *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also – Matthew 6:19-21*
- *Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth – Colossians 3:2*
- *Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich. – Proverbs 28:6*
 - Riches are external only and depreciate externally
 - Wealth is integrity of character as well as that which increases in value
- The Bible places the internal as a priority over the external

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Professor Tom Rose on Property

- *Property is the individual's ownership and effective control over his own self, his mind, his body, his labor power, and the physical wealth he has produced or accumulated through the expenditure of his own mental and physical efforts. A man has a property right in his own self and in what he has produced. Such right connotes use and effective control over what is owned, to the exclusion of others.*
 - Internal – his person (heart), life, mind and labor power
 - External – his body, physical wealth, liberty, possessions
- An individual has exclusive control over their own property

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James Madison on Property - 1792

... a man's land, or merchandise, or money, is called his property... (but) a man has property in his opinions, and the free communication of them. He has a property of peculiar value in his religious opinions, and in the profession and practice dictated by them... He has an equal property in the free use of his faculties, and free choice of the objects on which to employ them. In a word, as a man is said to have a right to his property – he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.

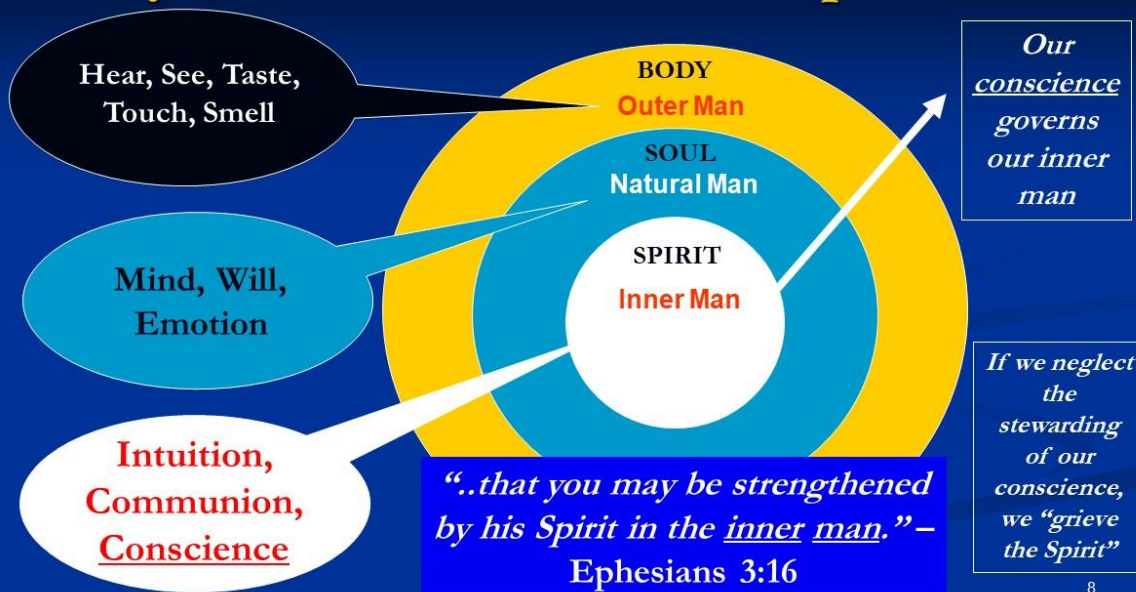
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“Conscience is the most sacred of all property... the exercise of that being a natural and unalienable right” - Madison

- Webster’s 1828 – conscience - *the principle within us which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections and instantly approves or condemns them*
- Luke 11:35 – *the lamp of the body is the eye... take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness*
- Acts 24:16 – *I myself always strive to have a conscience void of offense toward God and men.*

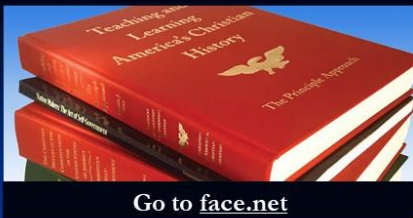
Why is the Conscience so Important?



The Law of the Conscience

- The seat of Sovereignty is who or what trains the conscience
 - Pr. 22:6 - *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it*
 - Pr. 23:7 – *As a man thinks in his heart, so is he...*
 - Lk. 12:33-34 – *where your heart (conscience) is, there will be your treasure – your most valued eternal possessions...*
- The conscience can be seared and lose its value / wealth
 - 1st Timothy 3:9 – *holding the... faith with a pure conscience*
 - 1st Timothy 4:2 – *speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron (no conscience to convict of sin)*

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Go to face.net

Rosalie Slater on Conscience

Teaching and Learning America's Christian History: The Principle Approach

We can see the Christian inheritance of property – from the first century when 'liberty of conscience' became more important to men than their very lives. We remember the Pilgrims fleeing from England, rather than submit to infringement of their rights of conscience. And here we find the founding fathers reminding us that 'we have a property in our rights' – and that the right of conscience is the most important.... Liberty of conscience did not exist until Christianity appeared in the world.

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Violating our Conscience

- R Slater - *The first invasion of property rights occurs internally, when the individual consents to the disposal or use or misuse of his opinions, his religious convictions, and his faculties...*
- Our consent to violate conscience can be given in two ways
 - Commission – agreeing to do or support something that is against God's Word and Law – it is the *sin of active disobedience*
 - Omission – giving tacit consent by making no objection, or making no proposal of an alternative – it is the *sin of silence* – the *sin of passive disobedience*

11

Ponder the following thoughts...

- ... *the surrender of an individual or a nation can occur by silence, or by making no objection* – Rosalie Slater
- Rus Walton...
 - *How far could Hitler have gotten if the Christians of that Germany had raised their objections and voiced their opposition, at the beginning?*
 - *Could America have strayed so far from God's light and truth and purpose if the Christians of earlier days had raised their objections, and stood firm against ungodly forces, at the beginning of the drift?*
 - *Christianity is not a passive faith. It is a passionate state of mind.*
 - *Faith without works is dead... - James 2:26*

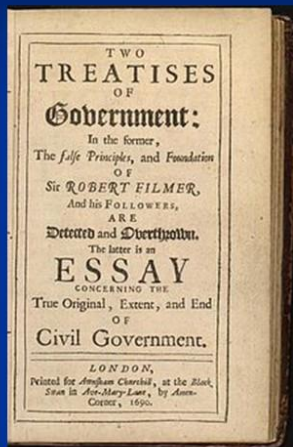
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The Massachusetts Body of Liberties - 1641

- Rev. Nathaniel Ward of Ipswich - decreed and confirmed...
- Preamble – *the free fruition of such liberties, immunities, and privileges as humanity, civility, and Christianity call for as due to every man in his place... with our solemn consent*
- Law One – *no mans life shall be taken away, no mans honor or good name shall be stained, no mans personal shall be arrested... unless it be by virtue or equity of some express law of the Country warranting the same, established by a general Court and sufficiently published, or in the case of the defect of a law in any particular case by the Word of God.*

13

John Locke – Of Civil Government - 1690



- *For Men being all the Workmanship of one Omnipotent, and infinitely wise Maker: all the Servants of one Sovereign Master, sent into the world by His order, and about His Business, they are his Property whose Workmanship they are, made to last during His, not another's, pleasure...*
- *He seeks out, and is willing to join in society with others, for the mutual preservation of their lives, liberties and estates, which I call by the general name, Property.*

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The Golden Rule



- Luke 6:31 - *And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.*
- Rus Walton - Never permit government to do unto any other individual that which you would not want done unto yourself or to your property. Never ask civil government to do to any other person that which you would not want done unto yourself, or to your property. As you would that men would do to unto you, so do you unto them.

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The Bill of Rights - 1791

- Promised by Madison and others... proposed May 4, 1789
- 189 Amendments were sent to Congress; reduced to 17
- Only 12 sent to the States, and only 10 ratified...
- A Giant STOP SIGN to not interfere with State's Rights
*“The Conventions of a number of states, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses be added; and as extending the ground of public confidence in the government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institutions, be it resolved..
Congress shall make no law...”*

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“Congress shall make no law...”

Bill of Rights

- *...respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise...*
- *...abridging the freedom of speech or of the press...*
- *right of the people to peaceably assemble*
- *...to petition for a redress of grievances*

Internal Property

- Right of conscience
- Right of religious liberty and the practice of one's faith
- Voicing opinions that don't threaten violence
- Written opinions...
- Liberty of conscience in harmony with others
- Exposing unlawful practices of govt

External Property

- Right to property set aside for religious purposes – tax free and not just tax exempt
- Actions based on those opinions and thought
- Copyrights; books...
- The actions of peaceful demonstrations
- Writing petitions and getting an answer

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“Congress shall make no law...”

Bill of Rights

- *...to keep and bear arms...*
- *To be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects*
- *Nor compelled to witness against himself*
- *Nor deprived of life, liberty or property without due process*
- *No property taken without just price*

Internal Property

- Right to defend life and liberty...
- Right to privacy of person, house, papers without a warrant...
- Right to remain silent to protect conscience
- Right to life and liberty as innocent until proven guilty
- Equity of a just price based on locality

External Property

- Right to defend personal and private property
- Right to privacy of effects (actions) without a warrant...
- Cannot be compelled to testify externally
- Right to property as innocent until proven guilty
- Property cannot be taken without just cause

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“Congress shall make no law...”

Bill of Rights

- *The right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury*
- *Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines...*
- *... nor cruel and unusual punishment...*
- *The enumeration of certain rights shall be construed to deny others not listed*

Internal Property

- A speedy trial and public trial to allow those who know you
- Bail must set in accordance with the accused crime
- The punishment must fit the crime
- 9th Amendment: not all rights are to be listed, for the people have all rights given by God

External Property

- The right to an inexpensive trial and jury who knows you
- Fines cannot be given as a form of punishment or “taxation w/out rep.”
- Humiliation before peers is not to be done
- 10th Amendment: powers not delegated are not implied; reserved to States and people

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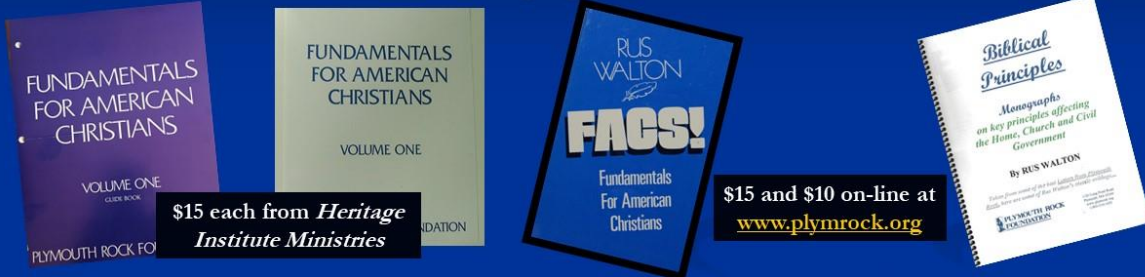
So how do we steward our Conscience?

- Endeavor to keep a clean conscience before God
- Exercise your conscience to be void offence toward others
- Daily repent of known and unknown sins that we might be forgiven and stop actions that are in disobedience to Him
- Actively speak, write or act out positive actions that uplift others and if necessary, oppose unrighteous actions
- Share what you have learned with at least one other person who has not taken this course or may not know the premises and illustrations that you have learned...

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Suggested reading from Lesson 12...

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



- Read Lesson 12 of the notebook; Chp. 15 of the paperback
- Read the PRF newsletter *Stewardship* by Rus Walton
- Ponder the PowerPoint slides and/or review the recording