

Study Guide: Puritan Theology & Beliefs

Focus Questions:

1. Who are the Puritans?
2. What are their beliefs?
3. How do their beliefs affect their life, education, family, & community?

Vocabulary:

1. Puritan - a member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16th and 17th centuries who regarded the Reformation of the Church of England; someone who suspects that “somewhere someone is having a good time.”
2. Separatis - a person who supports the separation of a particular group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender.
3. Salvation - deliverance from sin and its consequences.
4. Piety - a belief or point of view that is accepted with unthinking conventional reverence.

Summarys:

❖ Background:

- The Puritans are from England who wanted to get rid of Catholicism, some stayed to reform the church in England, others moved to U.S and built “City Upon a hill”
 - A new society where they could perform their religion; did not like other religions.

- If there were any household domestic problems, they would get involved, because they did not like violence, neither drinking or gambling.

❖ Education”Cotton Mather of the Education of his Children”:

- Cotton Mather = minister, political activist, scientist.
- Taught lessons from the bible, how both genders to read/write, they must pray, & love Jesus Christ by proving it.
- Put to do community service = shows goodness to God
 - Must act by principles of Reason and Honour
- Chastise children to not do “bad” things again
 - Punishment was to refuse to teach them something
- Their behavior determines whether they will go to Heaven or Hell.

❖ Between Heaven and Hell:

- Values: hard work, self-sacrifice, family, community, service, art, & literature.
- Beliefs: Humans are evil due to the “original sin,” salvation depends on God's judgment of them

❖ Sinners(after death):

- Believe it is easy for God to cast his enemies down to hell when he pleases
- They are only chosen to go to heaven and there is no way of working to get there after they die
- Believe those who are chosen will have a very wealthy and good life
 - So everyone worked very hard to prove to one another that they were chosen, even if they didn't know

➤ “The devil is waiting for them”