

Connecting to History:
What does Calvinism have to do with us???

Calvinism:

“Calvinists stressed hard work, discipline, thrift, honesty, and morality. Citizens faced fines or other harsher punishments for offenses such as fighting, swearing, laughing in church, or dancing. Calvin closed theaters and frowned on elaborate dress. To many Protestants, this emphasis on strict morality made Calvinist Geneva seem a model community.” (p. 48)

Early American (Puritan) laws:

Boston, 1657

“If, by reason of sickness, the parents cannot care for their children, you (the town government) are to take their children from them and put them to work.”

The Blue Laws of Connecticut

“If any man has a rebellious or stubborn son of sufficient understanding, (16 or older) who will not obey his father or his mother...then may his father and mother, being his natural parents, lay hold on him and bring him to court. If the parents testify that their son is stubborn and rebellious and will not obey their voices and punishment, but lives in evil ways, such a son shall be put to death.”

“If any person swears, he shall pay to the common treasury 10 shillings. If he can't pay the fine, he shall be put in the stocks for not more than three hours or less than one hour.”

Massachusetts Capital Laws, 1641-1642

If any man, after legall conviction, shall have or worship any other god, but the Lord God, he shall be put to death. Deut. 13.6, etc and 17.1, etc. Exod. 22.10.

If any man or woman be a witch, (that is) hath, or consulteth with a Familiar spirit, they shall be put to death. Exod. 22.18 Lev. 20.27. Deut. 18.10, 11.