

wilberforce

William Wilberforce (1759-1833)
A Man Who Changed His Times

I. His two goals

- A. *To abolish slavery in England {He saw this accomplished three days before his death}*
- B. *To reform the manners (morals) of England. {He wished to make goodness fashionable.}*

II. The Seven Principles of Wilberforce's Life

- A. *His whole life was animated by a deeply held, personal faith in Jesus Christ.*
- B. *He had a deep sense of calling that grew into the conviction that he was to exercise his spiritual purpose in the realm of his secular responsibility.*
- C. *He was committed to the strategic importance of a band of like-minded friends devoted to working together in chosen ventures.*
- D. *He believed deeply in the power of ideas and moral beliefs to change culture through a campaign of sustained public persuasion.*
- E. *He was willing to pay a steep cost for his courageous public stands and was remarkably persistent in pursuing his life task.*
- F. *His labors and faith were grounded in a genuine humanity rather than a blind fanaticism.*
- G. *He forged strategic partnerships for the common good irrespective of differences over methods, ideology, or religious beliefs.*

William Wilberforce is proof that a man can change his times, though he cannot do it alone. Wilberforce's own philanthropies were legion and he impoverished himself in the process. He was described as the "George Washington of humanity" and as "a Prime Minister of a cabinet of philanthropists." But, importantly, he allowed no bulkhead between faith and philanthropy. His "good works" included prisons and prisoners of war, hospitals and the poor, reforms in India and Africa and around the world.