

Having students read a selection, without insuring they digest it, is bad teaching, especially in Trinitarian Christocentric thinking, which does not occur naturally. But asked the right questions, they will find the right answers.

## Student reading review Q's and A's on "The Anti-Deistic U.S. Constitution"

(1) Authors of the U.S. Constitution were Puritan Whigs.

(A) What made them Whigs? [They defended rights of Englishmen in the British historical constitutional tradition against lawless rulers.]

(B) Why were they political Puritans? [They were pessimistic on human nature.]

(2) What two Deistic principles did the authors of the Constitution reject?

[Optimism on human nature; Unitarian subordination of individuality to unity]

(3) What are six traditional rights of Englishmen that protect free men from rulers?

[Any six of these: Taxation by consent of property owners; trial by jury of peers; presumption of innocence; due process of law before property seizure; liability for unlawful property seizure; speedy trial; no standing army in peacetime without consent; no quartering of troops in private homes in peacetime without consent; freedom of travel in peacetime; regular legislative sessions; free legislative debate; the right of the general militia (not just of the select militia) to bear arms; habeas corpus; no excessive bail or fines; no cruel or unusual punishments; the right to petition; free elections; and no martial law in peacetime]

(4) How is the Constitution's silence on the right to secede consistent with

Trinitarian shared sovereignty? [Taking a position pro or con on the right to secede would declare at which level of government – state or federal – sovereignty ultimately lay. Since undivided sovereignty lay nowhere, the Constitution was silent on the right to secede.]

(5) **Thought question: What is the logical connection between the U.S.**

**Constitution's pessimism on human nature, and the deity of Christ? Hint – See Section III in the left (blue) column on the *Summa Americana* page.** [If man is corrupt by nature – is neither born innately good nor self-perfectible over time – Christ had to be divine to atone for sin and regenerate him.]