

American Literature  
*The Apostles of Liberty*  
Discussion Questions

Directions: Answer all of the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. What was the Act of Toleration 1689?
2. What crime had John Waller, Lewis Craig and three other men committed at the beginning of the story? What was their punishment? Would you classify them as repeat offenders?
3. Why did government and Anglican Church officials find these men's behavior disturbing?
4. How would your life change today if your state sponsored one particular religion and prohibited all others, including the one you support?
5. John Waller once despised the Separate Baptists. What turn of events led to his conversion?
6. The Separate Baptists found friends and supporters in James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. How did each man respond to the Baptists' plight? Identify modern-day Madisons and Jeffersons who might support a religious group that was being targeted for persecution.
7. Predict the future of religious liberty in America in the next 20 years. Do you think this basic principle of our democracy will be secure or threatened? What can Americans do today to ensure religious liberty tomorrow?