



Ben Nathan

704#23

Humanities \* Were the Puritans "Puritanical"? 12/28/16

Them

me

Br. #25, H.L. Mencken defined Puritanism as 'the haunting fear that someone, one, somewhere, may be happy...'

preaching! Without a doubt, I can see the humor in it, but it is a very extreme exaggeration

A Puritan was a hard worker who strongly objected to medieval Catholicism.

That is, in my opinion, too cut and dry a statement

God put pleasure on the Earth with humans, so therefore why would it be defying God to have pleasurable experiences? As far as Puritans were concerned, pleasure was fine, but too much of it, they believed, could lead to idleness.

If I am not mistaken, those are the same values that are being preached to us, today! What a strange coincidence (that is meant sarcastically)!

The Cambridge platform of the Church of 1680 didn't allow card or dice games, fearing that they would lead to idleness. The ministers of Boston in 1699 allowed public lotteries. They claimed that it was another way of collecting taxes, and if that could be made pleasant, then why not do so?

Wow! Total opposites! Cambridge sounds just a bit too obsessive, and Boston's reasoning is clever, yet odd, because what happens if someone wins the lottery? How does the church profit and how does that act as a pleasurable way of collecting taxes?