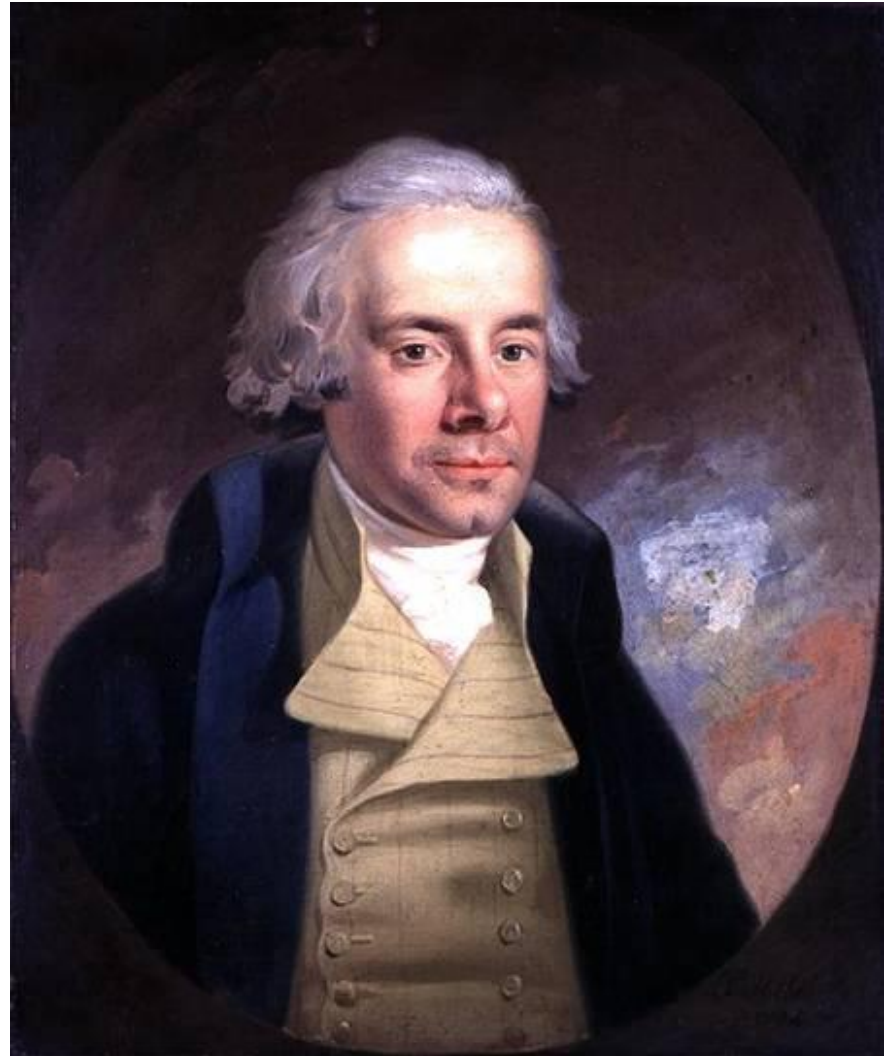


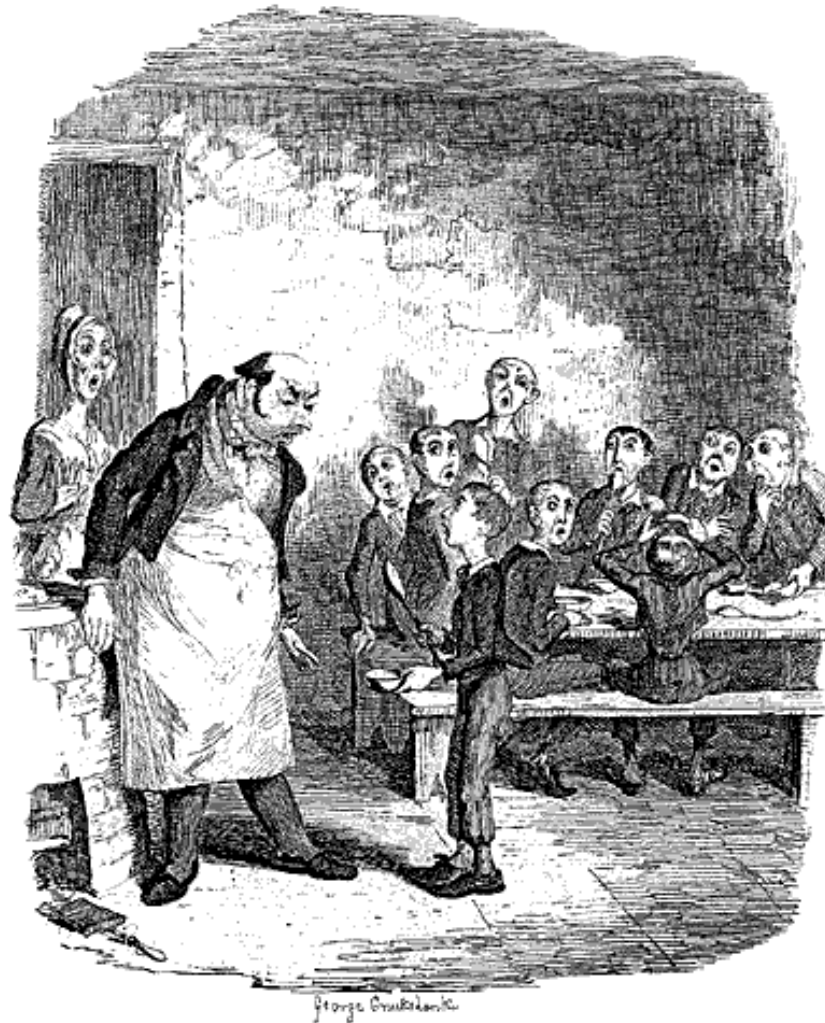
# William Wilberforce

1759-1833



Once a nation or society shows signs of drift or decline from its original ideals and vision, can that process be reversed? Can a culture be won back?

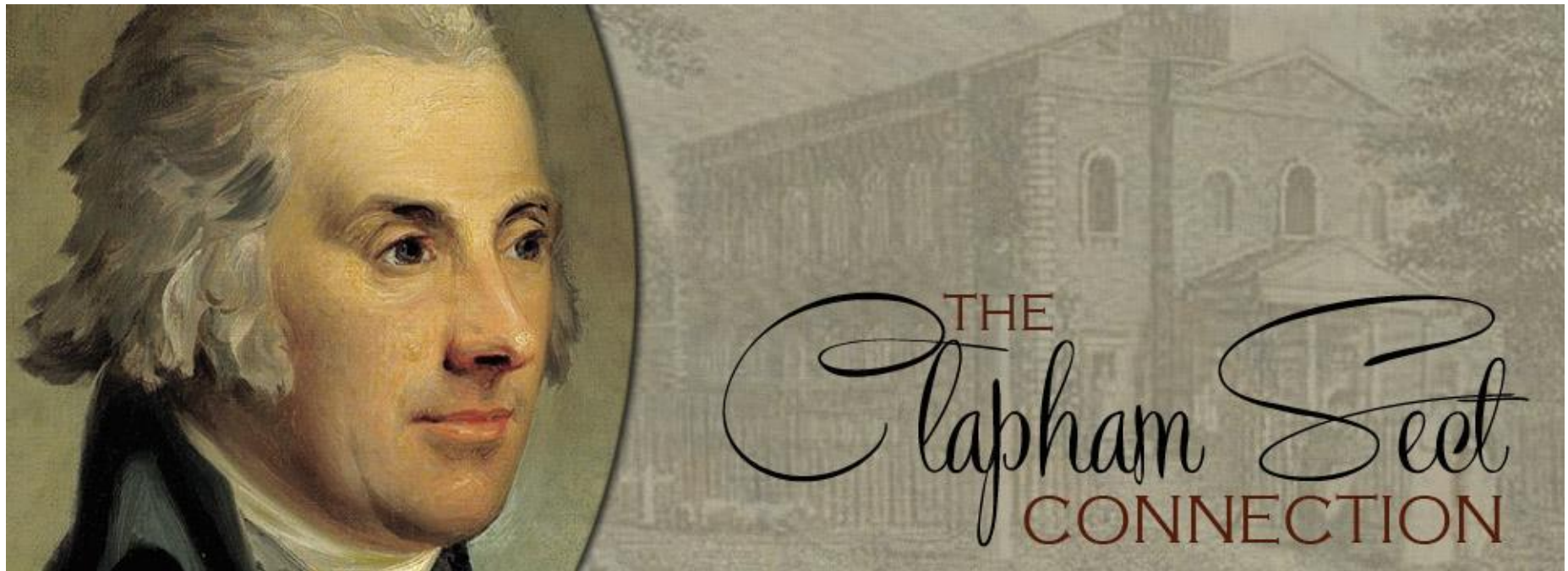
# Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*



# The Evangelical Movement

- Intense personal piety
- A conversion experience
- Aggressive concern for Christian service in the world

# The Clapham Sect (Group)



# The Clapham Sect (Group)

It was a remarkable fraternity. There has never been anything like it since in British public life.

Reginald Coupland

# The Clapham Sect (Group)

- The Church Missionary Society
- The British and Foreign Bible Society
- The Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor
- The Society for the Reformation of Prison Discipline

# William Wilberforce

My walk is a public one. My business is in the world; and I must mix in the assemblies of men, or quit the post which Providence seems to have assigned me.



# William Wilberforce

Let the consequences be what they would, I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its abolition.

# William Wilberforce

God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners (morals).

# John Wesley

Dear Sir,

Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you who can be against you.

# Friend

I shall expect to read of you being broiled like a piece of fish by West Indian planters, barbecued by African merchants and eaten by Guinea captains, but do not be daunted, for—I will write your epitaph!

# William Wilberforce

Whatever may be its success, I attach my happiness to their cause and shall never relinquish it.

# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**First,** *Wilberforce's whole life was animated by a deeply held, personal faith in Jesus Christ.*

# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**Second,** *Wilberforce 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.*

# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**Third,** *Wilberforce was committed to the strategic importance of a band of like-minded friends devoted to working together in chosen ventures.*



# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**Fourth,** *Wilberforce believed deeply in the power of ideas and moral beliefs to change culture through a campaign of sustained public persuasion.*

# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**Fifth,** *Wilberforce was willing to pay a steep cost for his courageous public stands and was remarkably persistent in pursuing his life task.*

# Principles from Wilberforce's Life

**Sixth,** *Wilberforce forged strategic partnerships for the common good irrespective of differences over methods, ideology, or religious beliefs.*

# 19<sup>th</sup> Century Britain

Nineteenth-century British public life became famous for its emphasis on character, morals and justice. The Bible became the best-loved book. A Christian social conscience attacked the abuses of the Industrial with compassionate relief for its victims.

Wilberforce proved that a man can change his times, but that he cannot do it alone.