

# □ Common Law & the Price of Liberty – John Quade

January 19, 2026



## □ Who Was John Quade – and Why His Voice Still Matters

John Quade (1938–2009) was not merely a Hollywood actor. While many remember him from *The Sting*, *Roots*, and over a hundred film and television appearances, Quade used his public platform for something far less common in his industry: **real-world moral and legal confrontation.**

In the late 20th century—long before podcasts, Substack, or independent media—Quade stepped onto stages at preparedness expos, constitutional forums, and civic gatherings to deliver uncompromising lectures on **law, liberty, faith, and consent.** He did not speak as an academic, nor as a politician. He spoke as a man who believed that something foundational had been lost—and that silence was no longer an option.

This series is rooted in one such speech: “*Common Law: Understanding Your God-Given Rights.*”

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## ☐☐ The Era That Shaped the Message

John Quade’s speech emerged from a period of deep institutional transition in America:

- Post-Vietnam disillusionment
- Expanding federal bureaucracy
- The normalization of administrative law
- The quiet replacement of rights with permissions
- The church’s growing retreat from public law and governance

This was not a moment of sudden collapse, but of **slow normalization**—where contracts replaced consent, benefits replaced birthright, and complexity replaced clarity.

Quade was sounding an alarm *before* many of today’s debates became mainstream.

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## ⚖☐ What This Series Is – and What It Is Not

This series is **not** a call to anger.

It is **not** a partisan manifesto.

It is **not** about personalities or political parties.

Instead, it is an **examination of first principles**:

- Where do rights come from?
- What is the difference between a right and a privilege?
- How does consent actually operate in law?
- When does protection become jurisdiction?
- What did “self-governance” once mean—and what does it mean now?

Quade’s core contention is simple, though uncomfortable:

*Most power exercised over people today is not taken by force, but given by consent—often unknowingly.*

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## □ Why “Common Law” Matters

At the heart of Quade’s argument is **common law**—not as a technical legal niche, but as a worldview.

Historically, common law rested on three assumptions:

1. Rights are **pre-political** (they exist before government)
2. Law is grounded in **moral authority**, not administrative convenience
3. The people themselves are the final earthly authority under God

In Quade’s framing, common law is not anti-government—it is **pre-government**.

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## □ Law, Faith, and the Question Modern Culture Avoids

One of Quade's most controversial—and central—claims is this:

*All law is religious.*

By this, he does not mean that law must quote scripture, but that every legal system is built on an underlying belief about:

- Human nature
- Authority
- Right and wrong
- Accountability

Change the belief, and the law changes with it.

This series does not ask the reader to accept this claim blindly—but it *does* ask that it be examined honestly.

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## □ Why This Series Matters Now

Decades after Quade delivered this speech, the questions he raised have only intensified:

- Property without ownership
- Representation without consent
- Law without accountability

- Citizenship without sovereignty

Many feel the pressure—but lack the language to describe it.

This series exists to restore **language, distinction, and memory.**

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## □ **How This Series Is Structured**

Each article will focus on **one core pillar** drawn directly from Quade’s speech, expanded and clarified for modern readers:

### ⚖️ □ [Part I – Rights vs. Privileges](#)

*What the Founders Knew – and Modern Americans Forgot*

- God-given rights vs man-granted privileges
- Why privileges can be taxed and revoked
- The psychological trap of “benefits”

□ *Anchor quote from Quade:*

*“Rights come from God. Privileges come from men. Choose this day whom you will serve.”*

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### □ [Part II – Consent, Contracts, and Jurisdiction](#)

*How Power Is Granted Without Force*

- Adhesion contracts explained simply
- Social Security, driver's licenses, voter registration
- Why "voluntary" matters in law

□ Visual: contract → status → jurisdiction flow

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## □ Part III – Citizenship, Residency, and Legal Status

*Why 'What Kind of Citizen?' Is the Right Question*

- Citizen of a State vs U.S. Citizen
  - Resident vs domiciled
  - Why standing matters in court
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## □ Part IV – Law Is Religion

*The Gods Behind Every Legal System*

- "All law is religious" unpacked
- Moral relativism vs fixed standards
- Why changing law = changing gods

□ This is a **keystone article** philosophically

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## □ [Part V – Common Law Is Biblical Law Applied](#)

*The Missing Link Between Scripture and the Constitution*

- Deuteronomy & the Constitution
  - Common law origins
  - Why the Bible once sat on every mantle
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## □ [Part VI – Licensing: How Rights Are Traded Away](#)

*Marriage, Driving, Property, and Permission*

- Marriage licenses vs marriage certificates
  - Vehicle “titles” vs certificates of title
  - The hidden cost of “permission to operate”
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## □ [Part VII – Property, Allodial Title, and the Illusion of Ownership](#)

*If You Pay Taxes on It, Do You Own It?*

- Allodial title explained plainly
- Property as surety
- Why “your house is your castle” used to be literal

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## □ [Part VIII – The Church, Jurisdiction, and the Price of Tax Exemption](#)

*When the Church Voluntarily Left the Battlefield*

- Ecclesiastical jurisdiction
- Why churches once shielded their members
- What tax exemption actually cost

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## □ [Part IX – Blood, Sacrifice, and the True Cost of Freedom](#)

*Why Lexington Happened the Way It Did*

- Christian duty & just war
- Why they stood and did not fire
- Liberty as inheritance or forfeiture

You may agree, disagree, or wrestle—but you will not be rushed.

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## □ [Part X – The 14th Amendment Pivot](#)

*From Rights to Taxable Privileges*

- How the amendment functionally changed status
- Why taxation requires privilege

- The long game of consent

△ □ This one was **carefully framed**, not diluted

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## □ **Series Epilogue: Stewardship in an Age of Permission**

The series concludes by returning to John Quade's central concern – not as a warning of collapse, but as a call to maturity. Rather than urging resistance or reform, the epilogue asks a quieter question: what responsibility falls on individuals in an age where participation is assumed and permissions replace understanding? It reframes Quade's work as an invitation to stewardship – self-governance grounded in awareness of status, jurisdiction, and choice.

□ Ending the series with gravity, not outrage

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## □ **A Final Word Before We Begin**

John Quade closed his speech not with optimism, but with responsibility.

Liberty, in his view, is not guaranteed by documents, elections, or institutions—but by **men and women willing to govern themselves.**

This series is an invitation to examine whether that willingness still exists.

The first installment begins where Quade insisted all understanding must begin:

*With the difference between a right and a privilege.*

– [Next: Part I – Rights vs. Privileges: What the Founders Knew – and Modern Americans Forgot](#)

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## □ **How to Read This Series**

A Guide for Thoughtful, Serious Readers

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## □ **What This Series Is – and Is Not**

This series is not a manifesto.

It is not a legal instruction manual.

It is not a call to rebellion, protest, or refusal.

What follows is a **framework for understanding** – drawn from John Quade’s lectures and distilled into plain language for careful readers.

The purpose is clarity, not compliance or confrontation.

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## □ **Read This Slowly**

Each article builds on the one before it.

Concepts introduced early – rights, consent, status – become essential later when discussing licensing, property, church jurisdiction, and sacrifice.

This is not content designed for skimming.

If a section feels uncomfortable, pause.

Discomfort often signals the boundary between assumption and understanding.

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## □ **Definitions Matter More Than Opinions**

Throughout this series, definitions are treated as primary.

Not modern usage.

Not political framing.

But **legal and historical meanings** – especially where words like *right*, *license*, *property*, *jurisdiction*, and *authority* are concerned.

Many disagreements about liberty are not disagreements at all – they are disagreements over vocabulary.

This series attempts to restore precision.

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## □ **Observation, Not Imitation**

Nothing here asks you to imitate John Quade.

Or the past.

Or any movement.

Instead, it asks you to **observe your own participation**:

- Where do you consent?
- Where do you contract?
- Where do you assume authority exists?
- Where do you trade responsibility for convenience?

These are personal questions.

They have personal answers.

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## △ □ **No Shortcuts, No Guarantees**

This series does not promise:

- Legal immunity
- Financial gain
- Institutional escape
- Conflict avoidance

Understanding does not guarantee outcome.

It only restores **agency**.

What you do with that agency is your responsibility.

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## □ **Faith, Law, and Liberty**

Readers should note:

This series reflects a worldview in which:

- Law flows from moral authority
- Liberty requires restraint
- Rights presume responsibility

Whether or not you share that worldview, it deserves to be understood accurately before being accepted or rejected.

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## □ **History Is Not Decorative**

When blood, sacrifice, and loss are discussed, they are not metaphors.

They are historical facts.

Liberty has never existed without cost.

This series asks whether modern society still recognizes – or avoids – that reality.

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## □ **How to Use This Series**

Readers may approach this work in several ways:

- As historical inquiry
- As moral reflection

- As legal education
- As personal audit

None are exclusive.

What matters is honesty.

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## □ **A Final Note to the Reader**

You are not expected to agree with everything you read here.

You are expected to think.

If this series sharpens your questions rather than answers them neatly, it has succeeded.

Understanding begins not with certainty – but with attention.