



# THE FOUR REFORMERS

*Posted on October 1, 2023 by Robert Louis Stevenson*



Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), the famed Scottish writer, in his leisure hours also turned out some remarkable fables. One of them, *The Four Reformers*, speaks to our own era rather precisely. It is difficult to say when it was written, but likely before 1888. His fables were collected and published posthumously, in 1896.



## **IX. The Four Reformers**

Four reformers met under a bramble bush. They were all agreed the world must be changed. "We must abolish property," said one.

"We must abolish marriage," said the second.

"We must abolish God," said the third.

"I wish we could abolish work," said the fourth.

"Do not let us get beyond practical politics," said the first. "The first thing is to reduce men to a common level."

"The first thing," said the second, "is to give freedom to the sexes."

"The first thing," said the third, "is to find out how to do it."

"The first step," said the first, "is to abolish the Bible."

"The first thing," said the second, "is to abolish the laws."

"The first thing," said the third, "is to abolish mankind."

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Featured: *Four Men at a Cafe*, by Yiannis Tsaroychis; painted in 1927.

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