

## Anglicanism 101

### Class 7: What's so Different about Anglicans? [Sources for Belief & Ethics]

- I. Introductory Discussion:** What do Anglicans believe? How do we know how to live? Anglicanism has often prioritized worship and practical expressions of religion over systematic doctrine, so where do we turn?
- Sources:** Where do we look to know how we are to live? What does a good life look like?
- Ends:** What is the goal of a life well lived?
- Means:** How do we actually live this out?
- II. Framework: Scripture, Tradition, Reason (3 legged-stool, tricycle, or fence-posts for pasture)**
- **Scripture (The Bible):** all true doctrine comes from scripture. Context for an ethical life: God's love and grace, God's sovereignty, God's intelligence, God's Church.
  - Scripture describes "the pasture" (the life God desires) in many ways: 10 Commandments (how humans work), The Lord's Prayer, the Sermon on the Mount/Beatitudes, instruction of epistles.
  - **Tradition:**
    - **Early Church/Creeds:** Church fathers, councils, Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian).
      - **Four fence-posts:** (1) Jesus (Lord/Christ) rose and lives; (2) He died for sins on cross; (3) He will come again for salvation of his people; (4) He is Son of Father and co-Creator.
    - **The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion:** Elaborate/summarize Reformation Biblical faith/doctrine.
      - **History** (10 (1536), 42 (1553), then Cranmer's 39 (1571), influenced by Luther (except presence at Eucharist); historical context matters (as w/Creeds, all historical documents).
      - **Content** (BCP 867): Morality (VII), Sin/Free Will (IX, X), Sin/Good Works (XI – XVI)
      - **Packer:** Articles address problems of integrity, ignorance, individuality. Articles should impact theology, liturgy, and community, and be used for discipleship.
    - **The Book of Common Prayer:** The Bible arranged for Christian prayer and worship, the baseline for doctrine, worship, etc., including Rites (texts) and Ceremonies (actions).
    - **Lambeth Quadrilateral (1888):** Four marks of Anglicanism: **(1)** Scripture contains "all things necessary for salvation." **(2)** Apostles'/Nicene Creed as "sufficient statement" of faith. **(3)** Christ ordained two sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist. **(4)** "Historic Episcopate, locally adapted."
  - **Reason:** What role does this play? Why is it the third in the list?
  - **Note on Streams within Anglicanism:** Anglo-Catholic, Latitudinarian, Evangelical, Charismatic.
    - Anglo-Catholic:** moral theology (how man should live), ascetical theology (connection with God).
    - Latitudinarian/liberal:** positive view of humanity/reason (affects beliefs about good that can be done).
    - Evangelical/Reformed:** Scripture as primary authority, love-based good works, radical need.
    - Charismatic:** emphasis on work of the Spirit.
- III. Anglican Catechism (ACNA's *To Be a Christian*):** "a text for instruction of Christian disciples."
- **Beginning with Christ** (Gospel framework); **Believing in Christ** (Creed framework); **Being Christ's** (Lord's Prayer Christian life framework); **Behaving Christianly** (10 Commandments ethical framework).
- IV. Questions to consider:** Do you lean towards a particular stream? Is Anglicanism too broad or too prescriptive? Do you gravitate towards intellect or emotion in your beliefs and actions? Is your faith more defined by personal belief/devotion//works, or by corporate worship?

**Prayer:** Proper 15 (p. 232 BCP)

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## The Thirty-nine Articles: A Summary

1. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity: *one living/true God, everlasting, infinite, unity of three Persons (Father, Son, H.S.).*
2. Of Christ the Son of God: *Son of eternal Father God, the Word, of one substance w/ God, born of a virgin, Godhead and Manhood in one Person undivided; suffered, crucified, died and buried; reconcile us to God as sacrifice for sin.*
3. Of his going down into hell: *It is also believed that he went down into hell (place of dead, doesn't imply torment).*
4. Of his Resurrection: *Christ rose bodily from death, ascended into heaven; he will return to judge at the last day.*
5. Of the Holy Ghost: *The H.S. proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is of the same substance, glory and majesty.*
6. Of the sufficiency of the Scriptures: *Holy Scripture contains "all things necessary to salvation," canon of OT and NT is established (w/books of Apocrapha allowed for example of life and instruction of behavior, but not for doctrine).*
7. Of the Old Testament: *not contrary to NT, Christ offers everlasting life in both; only OT moral Law is binding.*
8. Of the three Creeds: *Nicene, Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds are to be received and believed.*
9. Of original or birth-sin: *Human nature is corrupt and deserving of wrath, even in regenerate (saved).*
10. Of free-will: *Man can't turn himself to God; only God's prevenient grace can.*
11. Of justification: *Righteous before God only by Christ's merit through faith, not by works.*
12. Of good works: *Works are the fruit of lively faith and please God, but do not grant salvation.*
13. Of works before justification: *Before grace of Christ, even good works are not pleasing to God.*
14. Of works of supererogation: *It is not possible to works above and beyond God's requirements.*
15. Of Christ alone without sin: *Christ is like man in all things, except that he is without sin.*
16. Of sin after baptism: *Sin after baptism is not necessarily unpardonable, and repentance/forgiveness is to be granted.*
17. Of predestination and election: *Predestination to life is God's everlasting purpose; for godly – comfort, love for God.*
18. Of obtaining salvation by Christ: *Scripture teaches exclusivity of salvation by Christ, not by other religious beliefs.*
19. Of the Church: *Visible Church of Christ is faithful to Word and sacraments; other churches (incl. Rome) have erred.*
20. Of the authority of the Church: *Church has authority (faith, ceremony), but must not contradict or add to Scripture.*
21. Of the authority of general councils: *Church councils are human and may err, authority is based on Scripture.*
22. Of purgatory: *"Romish doctrine" of purgatory, pardons, veneration of images and saints – repugnant to Scripture.*
23. Of ministering in the congregation: *Ministers must be called by the church.*
24. Of speaking in the congregation: *Public prayer and sacraments must be in a language understood by the people.*
25. Of the sacraments: *Only Baptism & Eucharist ordained by Christ; not to be worship or received unworthily.*
26. Of the unworthiness of ministers: *Efficacy of sacraments not dependent on minister's holiness; evil should be judged.*
27. Of baptism: *Baptism: sign of profession/new birth, mark of difference, adoption into promises (child baptism good).*
28. Of the Lord's Supper: *sign of love, sacrament of redemption; spiritual not physical (not transubstantiation).*
29. Of the wicked which eat not the body of Christ: *The wicked consume sacrament wrongly and don't partake in Christ.*
30. Of both kinds: *The cup is not to be denied to the people, both parts of sacrament are to be given to the people.*
31. Of Christ's one oblation: *Christ's offering is made once (not by priest) as redemption/propitiation/satisfaction for sin.*
32. Of the marriage of priests: *Bishops, priests, and deacons may marry (single life not commanded by Scripture).*
33. Of excommunicate persons: *Anyone that openly denounces Church should be cut off until received by penance.*
34. Of the traditions of the Church: *Uniformity not necessary; should be followed unless opposing Scripture.*
35. Of the homilies: *The Book of Homilies contains sound doctrine and should be taught in Churches.*
36. Of consecrating of ministers: *The patterns of ordering and consecrating bishops and ministers are set.*
37. Of civil magistrates: *King, though not minister, not subject to foreign jurisdiction (e.g. Rome) in church/civil matters; "laws of the realm" allow for death penalty in heinous offences; lawful to serve in wars.*
38. Of Christian men's goods: *Wealth of Christians not "common" (ag. Anabaptists, communism); give liberally!*
39. Of a Christian man's oath: *Vain/rash oaths are forbidden by Christ (and James), but just/faithful oaths allowed.*