

# Authority in the church

## I. Bulletin Cover:

The Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church  
The Right Rev. Stephen D. Strawn, Bishop Ordinary  
The Rev. Fr. Bartholomew G. Ryan, SSC, Rector  
The Rev. Fr. Paul Kolisch, Curate

- A. Do we believe the first statement?
- B. What about the others that are listed?
- C. Is the church guided by the Holy Ghost? Protected from error?

## II. The Bible:

Collect prayer for the second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

- A. What do we believe this collect correctly reflects the church's understanding about the Bible?
- B. Why do we believe it? - Remember our repository of Anglican Theology is the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the Tradition of the Church

## III. The Councils of the church

- A. Council of Jerusalem recorded in the Bible
- B. The Seven Ecumenical Councils - gathering of the Church in Council
- C. Is the Church guided by the Holy Spirit when we gather in Council for the Church?

## BCP 36

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by thy Holy Spirit didst preside in the Council of the blessed Apostles, and hast promised, through thy Son Jesus Christ, to be with thy Church to the end of the world; We beseech thee to be with the Council of thy Church *here* assembled in thy Name and Presence. Save *us* from all error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice; and of thy great mercy vouchsafe, we beseech thee, so to direct, sanctify, and govern us in our work, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, that the comfortable Gospel of Christ may be truly preached, truly received, and truly followed, in all places, to the breaking down the kingdom of sin, Satan, and death; till at length the whole of thy dispersed sheep, being gathered into one fold, shall become partakers of everlasting life; through the merits and death of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Note the rubric that follows:

During, or before, the session of any General or Diocesan Convention, the above Prayer may be used by all Congregations of this Church. Or of the Diocese concerned;

Clearly from this prayer we understand that we believe the Church is guided by the Holy Ghost and protected. Note the passage: *Save us from all error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice;*

#### IV. Church Structure and Function - Ecclesiology

##### A. The orders of Ministry - form and function

1. Bishops proclaim and protect the doctrine of the Church
2. Deacons proclaim the Gospel in word and deed - service to the Body of Christ (the church)
3. Presbyters to act for the Bishop in the local church.
  - a. Authority flowing from the Bishop Roman Catholic
  - b. Anglican Theology

1. Vicar - similar to R.C.
2. Rectors - Biblical Model of local Bishops

## V. The Real Separation of Church and State (Applied to the Democratic Countries)

### A. Secular Democracy or Republic - Philosophy is Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism - actions are evaluated as to whether they create the greatest good for the most people or the least harm. Majority Rules

### B. Religious

Divine Rule is the philosophy - God is with us - God chooses those he calls to ministry - The Ministry is to care for the Body of Christ - There is an understanding of shared gifts - given to each for the benefit of the whole body

Leadership is a chrism given to those called by God it is not the result of education or preparation.

All actions are taken by the Body of Christ for His honor and Glory and to fulfill His work in this time and place. The least, the lost and lonely are the most important to the Body not the majority the rich or the powerful.

## VI. Interesting Anglican Documents and their History

### A. The 39 Articles - BCP 603

\* Note the catechism does not mention the 39 articles

#### 1. The breach with Rome 1532-34

Calvinism five points - rejected by Henry

- Total depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints

#### 2. Henry's personal beliefs did not prevent his political ambitions

Henry believed in the existence of purgatory and he endowed thousands of Masses to be said for the benefit of his soul, however he authorized the dissolved the endowed foundations that had been put in place for the benefit of individuals who wishes Masses to be said for them. The Crown seized the assets.

Henry began to engage in diplomacy with the German Princes to stabilize his political situation. The Lutheran Princes and his own Archbishop Cranmer (Greatly influenced by the theology of the Reformation) both presented to Henry Articles of Faith to be included in the C of E.

1536 - Wittenberg produced 10 articles

1538 - Cranmer produces the 13 articles

### 3. Edward VI was a supporter of the Reformation (1547 - 1553)

Edwards Changes on the C of E:

- Replace the Latin Mass with the BCP 1549,1552 each more reformed
- Communion under both species 1548
- Clerical marriage 1549
- Removal of the Altar 1550 replaced with tables
- 42 Articles of Religion 1553

The 42 articles were never approved by any ecclesial authority rather they were promulgated by the Privy Council. (Council of the Kings Advisors)

1559 the Elizabethan Settlement - Elizabeth decreed that no rubric that denied true presence could be included

1563 Convocation at Canterbury - Note this is not a council of the church rather it is a gathering of a few Bishop's with Parliament. They sought to reform the C fo E and wrote the 39 articles.

### 4. What do we learn from this?

The 39 articles are a political statement written as the Elizabethan settlement is begins formulated. Each is carefully crafted not to express the revealed truth, but to be politically acceptable

Studying the 39 articles we will find many inconsistencies and Biblical Errors! The five articles of Calvin are included in the 39 articles

The doctrines of the Church are not written by man laws but under Divine Inspiration.

### B. Chicago - Lambeth Quadrilateral - handout

1. The United States in late 1800's the Episcopal Church was moving towards becoming a social agency. The thrust and focus was on become an American Church united in mission. The salvation of Christ was becoming lost in the desire to grow and become an important part of the culture (Sound Familiar?)

2. The church was divided between the Evangelicals (Low Church) and the Anglo-Catholics (High Church) The claim to be a Catholic Church was understood in a different way by each group. Reed Huntington proposed a statement that defined how the Episcopal Church understood itself to be Catholic and to be a way for the church to discuss with other bodies how reunion might occur. In 1886 the General Convention, House of Bishop's accepted the Chicago Quadrilateral.

At the same time leaders in Canada and England were also seeking to define and Catholic nature of the church and relationship between churches. In 1888 the third Lambeth Conference affirmed the document as a basis towards reunion.

3. Since 1888 this statement of Principles has been discussed and debated before many diocesan and national convocations and Synods. It has become the basis for Ecumenism in the Anglican Communion. It is not held as doctrine of faith rather it is understood as a structure or outline so that discussion may occur between churches. Biblically based and founded upon the teaching of the Ecumenical councils of the church and the Traditions held by the church catholic. It is generally understood as the basis whereby the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church to begin serious discussions about reunion

How do we understand the Chicago Lambeth Quadrilateral?

The church has gathered over time, inspired by the Holy Ghost they have discussed and evaluated these statements. Protected and directed the statement has been agreed upon as elucidating the essence of Anglican Faith.

\*Note the difference between this and the 39 articles

### C. ARCIC Documents

For many years the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion has met to discuss the essential nature of our faith. The elements have each been discussed and statements of common belief have been issued. The subjects include:

Authority in the Church "The Gift of Authority"

Eucharist

Ministry

Salvation and the Church

Life in Christ - Morals, Communion and the Church

Marian Issues "Mary Grace and Hope in Christ"

There are also many elucidations on all these statements. Further discussion and comment by many theologians from both sides. Finally, the work is done and the question becomes what next?

The Anglican Communion had devolved in this period. The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and the C of E. were no longer practicing most of what the agreements had defined as essential to reunion. It is at this time that the TAC and Rome after years of informal discussions began serious approaches to each other.

\* Note Junior High