



Grace Anglican
CHURCH

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Session 1

~The 39 Articles~

A Foundational Document of the
Province of the Anglican Church
in North America



- ❖ Where are YOU currently about this topic?
- ❖ Background – What have you read or been taught, if anything?
- ❖ Impressions – Do you have any ideas about statements of faith in general?
Or adhering to conclusions reached 450 years ago?
- ❖ Attitudes – Is it a good/bad/neutral thing to belong to a church with documented statements of faith?
- ❖ Practices – Are you inclined/disinclined/undecided toward putting into practice in daily living what your church's doctrines state?
- ❖ What are the benefits and/or drawbacks to The Thirty-Nine Articles for those who are part of the Anglican Church in North America?
 - ❖ For Anglicans elsewhere?
 - ❖ For the all-inclusive universal church?



The Fundamentals of Faith

- ❖ **Who? What? Where? When? and Why?** We approach our Christ-centered studies to expand our understanding of His purposes by learning the answers to these basic questions.
- ❖ This time, let's start with the WHY? question.
- ❖ Here's the "Fundamental Declaration" of the Anglican Church of North America regarding why we affirm The 39 Articles:

"We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief." Statement #7, page 767 of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer



Words, Words, Words!

- ❖ *literal and grammatical sense* – The Articles say what they mean and mean what they say. But wait! Some of the words used in 1571 are unfamiliar to 21st century English-speakers.
- ❖ “catholic” means global, all-encompassing. To avoid confusion, say “universal” church. When referring to a part of the church based in Rome, governed by a pope, say specific words like “Roman Church.”
- ❖ *doctrinal issues controverted* – The Articles address, oppose, refute, and contradict selected errors and heresies inserted into Christianity that diluted or diverted God’s truth.
- ❖ *fundamental principles* – The Articles are basic, reliable, true to Scripture, and sufficient for true believers to know and stand for orthodox belief against misleading false teaching.



Topical Structure of Our Study

- ❖ During our next sessions on The 39 Articles, we will examine:
 - ❖ History – How they came to be written and by whom
 - ❖ Heresy – Unorthodox teachings in the era that rejected Scriptural truth (Most bear a resemblance to false teachings of today!)
 - ❖ Groupings – The Focus of the Various Articles:
 - The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Articles 1, 2, and 5
 - Jesus Christ – Articles 3 and 4
 - Scriptures and Creeds – Articles 6, 7, and 8
 - Creation – Articles 9 and 10
 - Salvation through Christ alone – Articles 11 through 18, and 31
 - The Church – Articles 19 through 22, and 34
 - Ministers – Articles 23, 26, 32, and 36
 - Worship and the Sacraments – Articles 24, 25, and 27 through 30
 - Additional Matters – Articles 33, 35, and 37 through 39