



Grace Anglican
CHURCH

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Session 5

~The 39 Articles~

Articles 19 – 22, and 34
The Church: What Anglicans Do
(and Don't Do)



Grace Anglican
CHURCH

What comprises THE Church?

- ❖ Article IXX: The Church is...
- ❖ Visible here on planet earth (also invisible in the spiritual dimension)
- ❖ Full of people full of faith in Jesus
- ❖ Congregating = coming together
- ❖ Hearing and doing the “pure Word of God” from, with, and among others, believers and unbelievers
- ❖ Partaking of the sacraments “duly ministered according to Christ”
- ❖ Managing “all those things that of necessity are requisite”





XIX – Why is THE Church splintered?

- ❖ Article 19 expresses the greatest test of the Reformation
- ❖ For almost 1000 years, beginning in the last few centuries of the 1st millennium A.D., the Christian world was ruled by dictates and increasing power of the bishop of Rome
- ❖ Rome eliminated “errant factions” by cutting off heretics (sometimes including their lives) and replacing their bishops
- ❖ In 1054, the churches known as the Western (Rome-based see) and Eastern (Constantinople-based see) split irreparably
- ❖ Deep divisions caused intractable positions; no reconciliation
- ❖ Reformers across Christendom determined to develop a Biblical doctrine of the Church after the 1300s





Features of THE Church

- ❖ “Protestantism” grew from the Reformation; protest, and finally replace, overtook the original idea to reform
- ❖ Opposition to the papal decrees of the 1200s and beyond: “*extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*” = outside the [RC] Church, there can be no salvation
- ❖ The pastoral epistles of Paul became the only dictums of THE Church’s leadership for Protestants
- ❖ Ecclesiology: structure and hierarchy of church leadership; ministry assignments; communion of churches (ACNA and others); local community identity; inclusivity of gender/race/sexuality; missions; outreach; and, social and/or political involvement
- ❖ Discussion: Does THE Church save?



What is the authority of THE Church?

- ❖ Article 20 emphasizes the 5 the “solo” statements
- ❖ Review: *Soli Deo gloria; Sola Christo; Sola fide; Sola gratia;* and, *Sola Scriptura*, in particular
- ❖ Churches that have “erred, not only in their living and manner of Ceremonies, but also in matter of Faith” held to account
- ❖ Anglican churches exercise power over “Rites or Ceremonies”
- ❖ Actions: kneeling, standing, sitting; forms of water baptism; types of fellowship and/or entertainment; layperson’s participation
- ❖ Appearances: altar décor; robes and attire; pews/chairs; forms and elements of the Eucharist
- ❖ Acceptable materials: songs/hymns; version of Scripture (within the boundaries of right translations); days and times; formality in worship; water baptism



XXI – Ecumenical Councils

- ❖ James, Peter, John, Paul and other apostles/disciples led THE Church under attack in the 1st century
- ❖ Luke-Acts details the spread of THE Church, including the Jerusalem Council of 50 A.D.
- ❖ Conclusions in Jerusalem were universally adopted:
 - ❖ Circumcision would not be required for non-Jews who embrace Christ as Savior
 - ❖ Moral laws of Moses accepted in principle and agreed in practice
 - ❖ Embraced all believers in full fellowship (Galatians 2 incident)
- ❖ Constantine and others convoked later councils



XXII – RC Purgatory ++ Rejected

❖ Articles 22 enumerates “Romish Doctrine(s)” the RC Church capitalized upon to the hurt of its common people and the benefit of its hierarchical leaders

“The Romish Doctrine concerning

- 1. Purgatory,*
- 2. Pardons,*
- 3. Worshipping and Adoration, as well of*
- 4. Images as of*
- 5. Relics, and also*
- 6. Invocation of Saints,*

is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.”



XXXIV – Traditions of THE Church

- ❖ Diversity of countries, times, and people’s manners
- ❖ Traditions and Ceremonies may vary, within *sola Scriptura*
- ❖ BUT, whenever an individual intentionally and publicly breaks Biblically-based church practices that are “ordained and approved by common authority” that person should be “rebuked openly” as a deterrent so that others do not
 - ❖ “offendeth against the common order of the Church, and
 - ❖ hurteth the authority of the Magistrate, and
 - ❖ woundeth the consciences of the weak brethren.”
- ❖ In fact:
“Every particular or national Church hath authority to ordain, change, and abolish, Ceremonies or Rites of the Church ordained only by man’s authority, so that all things be done to edifying.”

*THE Church is not
the buildings,
trappings, leaders,
or traditions of
human beings.*

**THE Church is
the followers of
Jesus and His
teachings!**

