

ANGLICAN ESSENTIALS Week 5

Week 1: Foundations: Overview, History, Roots, Creeds **Week 2:** Foundations: Book of Common Prayer, 39 Articles **Week 3:** Formation: Together through the Sacraments **Week 4:** Formation: As individuals & families through daily rhythms & offices

Week 5: Formation: Together through the Word & Spirit

Three Streams.

Scripture | Reformed | Evangelical
Sacrament | Catholic | Liturgical
Spirit | Charismatic | Formational

God's Word

Since [Scripture] was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it is divine as well as human in character. The words of our Lord, the prophets and the apostles which are written in Scripture have the same authority as their spoken words. The history, doctrine and ethics of Scripture are the truth of God, who can neither err nor deceive. This truth was given to guide fallen humanity out of darkness into light.”

J.I. Packer, *The Thirty-Nine Articles: Their Place and Use Today*.

Anglicanism views the Word of God primarily through the priority and practice of the Reformation.

The Word of God (defined as the 66 books of the OT / NT) is what describes believers, the church and its practices. It is what defined the Reformation, i.e. that the Catholic church would reform itself to be more in line with the early century practices of the Church.

“The ‘dangerous idea’ lying at the heart of Protestantism is that the interpretation of the Bible is each individual’s right and responsibility.” Alister McGrath, *Christianity’s Dangerous Idea*

KEY TENETS of the Reformation regarding Scripture:

Accessibility to God’s Word: every person could read and or hear the Scripture in their own language.

Every person a priest. Each person could interpret and apply the passage to themselves because Scripture had a plain and clear meaning (Perspicuity of Scripture).

Salvation came from hearing the Word of God and demonstrating belief through one’s redeemed life, not by the practice of elaborate doctrines, non-dominical sacraments or rituals. (See the Thirty-nine articles for ones that are specifically called out.)

God’s Word > Tradition of the Church

“Tradition, the teaching Church and the human understanding all have a part to play in transmitting and applying the teaching of Scripture, but whenever they assert themselves against it they go utterly astray.” J.I. Packer

F O R M A T I O N

Believers are formed by the Word read (i.e. reading of God’s Word in the Daily Offices, the Liturgy of the Word on Sundays and on other occasions).

E.g. BCP Lectionary takes you through the Bible in 2 years.

Believers are formed by the Word preached. Teaching and preaching are essential.

These factors naturally led to a high value for the preaching and exposition of the Word of God. The task of a Protestant clergyman focused more on preaching God’s Word rather than administering the Sacraments.

The Spirit

“God the Holy Spirit is the third Person in the one Being of the Holy Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son, and equally worthy of our honor and worship.” (Luke 11:13; John 14:26; 16:7)” *ACNA Catechism*

The Holy Spirit as revealed in Scripture...

- Participates in creation (Gen. 1)
- Moves us to worship God (e.g. Acts 10:44-46)
- Points us to Christ (e.g. 1 Peter 1:10-11)
- Is our Comforter, Advocate and Guide (e.g. John 14:16, 26; 16:13)
- Indwells us (e.g. Rom. 8:9-11)
- Leads us on mission (e.g. Acts 13:1-3)
- Brings conviction of sin (John 16:8)
- Confirms our adoption into God’s family (Rom. 8:15)
- Gives spiritual gifts to each member of the body of Christ (e.g. Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27-31)
- Produces the character of God (fruit of the Spirit) in us (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Heals us (e.g. 1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)
- Empowers our efforts (e.g. Eph. 3:14-19)

Charismatic Tradition

Some people today believe that the work of the Holy Spirit ceased with the time of the apostles, but church history seems to tell a different story. The early church fathers such as Justin Martyr (approx. 100–165 AD), Irenaeus (approx. 120–202 AD), and Tertullian (d. 225 AD) all tell of miracles and spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit and refer to them as a regular practice in the life and ministry of the early church. Bede’s *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, written in the eighth century, conveys a history of the Christian churches in England and records numerous accounts of miracles and

healings...The Anglican tradition helped to usher in the charismatic movement in North America and the British Isles.

Winfield Bevins, "Putting the Fire in the Fireplace: Anglicanism and the Holy Spirit"

A special outpouring of the power of the Spirit for a particular purpose in a particular place.

Charismatic Practice (healthy)

- Expect the Holy Spirit to be leading afresh
- Pray for and expect healing and deliverance
- Expect occasions of a prophetic word or tongues being spoken