

# THE HEART OF ANGLICANISM #1

## WHAT EXACTLY IS AN ANGLICAN?

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ANGLICAN?



## ANGLICANISM IS... HISTORICAL IN ORIGIN

- First Century Origin: Christ and Apostles (Apostolic)
- Claims to Apostolicity (1<sup>st</sup> Century): RCC & Orthodox
- Protestants → through RCC (end up being anti-RCC)
- Church of England – Anglican Uniqueness
  - Tradition – Joseph of Arimathea; Roman Soldiers; Celtic Church; Augustine of Canterbury; Synod of Whitby (664), Separated from Rome by Henry VIII (1534; Reformation)
  - A Fourth Branch of Christianity?

## BRANCHES OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

GENERALLY UNIFIED UNTIL SCHISM OF 1054

### Eastern Church: Orthodox

#### Patriarch of Constantinople

- Greek Orthodox
- Russian Orthodox
- Coptic Church
- American Orthodox

### Western Church: Catholic

#### Reformation Divisions (1517)

1. Roman Catholic Church
2. Protestant Churches
3. Church of England/  
Anglican Communion  
(Vatican II Document)

## NAME CHANGES THROUGH TIME

- Roman Catholic until Reformation (1534)
- Church of England until Revolutionary War (1785)
- In America: The (Protestant) Episcopal Church
- Break 2009: Anglican Church in North America
  - Founded as province of global Anglican Communion
  - Recognized by Primates of Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (African, Asian, So. American)

## TWO PRIMARY SOURCES OF ACNA A NEW SENSE OF *VIA MEDIA*



## **ANGLICANISM IS... DENOMINATIONAL IN DISTINCTIVES**

Certain features set Anglicanism apart from other branches of Christianity and denominations (e.g., currency):

- Book of Common Prayer
- 39 Articles of Religion (Elizabethan Settlement; *Via Media*)
- GAFCON Jerusalem Declaration of 2008 (vs. TEC)
- Provincial archbishops – w/ A. of Canterbury (first...)
- Episcopal oversight – support and accountability

## **ANGLICANISM IS... EPISCOPAL IN GOVERNANCE**

- Spiritual Authority – Regional & Pastoral
- Provides Support & Accountability
- Apostolic Succession? Continuity through history
- NT 2-fold order: bishop/elder/pastor & deacons
- Ignatius of Antioch (d. 110) → Reveals 3-fold order
- Shared by three largest Christian traditions
  - Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican (& others...)

## **ANGLICANISM IS... CLERICAL IN LEADERSHIP**

- Spiritual Authority (cont...) – Local & Pastoral
- Positive: Chosen leaders of worship and discipline
- Negative: clerical reaction (RCC); Clergy/Laity divide
- Titus 1; 1 Timothy 3; **Hebrews 13:7, 17** – “Obey...”
  - Ordained, authorized, accountable, and qualified: godly, spiritual, in positive relationships (w/ family, within church, outside community), wise, self-controlled, etc.

## **ANGLICANISM IS... GLOBAL IN COMMUNION**

- Both in denominational relationships and missions
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Christian body (after RCC and Orthodox)
- World-wide family with more than 70 million adherents in 165 countries
- ACNA approved by GAFCON, but not Canterbury
- ACNA has enormous debt to Anglican Primates of Africa, South America, and Asia (mission/covering)

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CONFIRMED?

### 118. What is confirmation?

After making a mature commitment to my baptismal covenant with God, I receive the laying on of the bishop's hands with prayer. (Acts 8:14-17; 19:6)

### 119. What grace does God give you in confirmation?

In confirmation, God strengthens the work of the Holy Spirit in me for his daily increase in my Christian life and ministry. (Acts 8:14-17; 19:6)

**Expectation:** Memorize 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Apostles' Creed

## PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be filled with your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*