

## Notes for Scripture & Creeds

### **VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.**

Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

- What is the point of Scripture?
- What authority does the Bible have? What would it mean to say that the Bible is authoritative within the context of this article?
- Does this challenge your understanding of the Bible in any way?

### **VII. Of the Old Testament.**

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral.

- What does Article 7 say about the relationship between the Old Testament and the New? Why is that important?

### **XX. Of the Authority of the Church.**

The Church hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: and yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.

- What do you think about how this article lays out the authority of the church and its relationship to Scripture?

- Article 20 distinguishes the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church in that the Roman Catholic Church can add dogma that doesn't contradict scripture, but is also not decreed in scripture.
- How should we deal with differences in interpretation?

There have always been a strand in the Anglican Churches that push for elevating various doctrines that come from their interpretation as being necessary for salvation. But there has also been a strand that has pushed for allowing, as much as possible, differing theological beliefs while maintaining unity. The striving of the latter for unity has been the position that generally been the course for Anglicanism. Anglican identity isn't rooted in a confession like the Augsburg or Westminster Confession. The 39 Articles serve as a basic foundation for Anglicanism, but not a complete guide that spells out doctrinal certainty on all the questions. Generally we say that Anglicanism is credal and not confessional. The creeds are the primary pillars that bound doctrinal unity.

## History of the Creeds

### Apostles' Creed

- Based on the Old Roman Symbol that is thought to have been formulated fairly early on and used for catechism and baptism.

### Nicene Creed (Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed)

- Formulated at the Council of Nicea in 325 and the Council of Constantinople in 381
- The Council of Nicea was called by Emperor Constantine to settle the Arian controversy.
  - Arius priest in Alexandria. Taught that Jesus was a created being: "There was when the Son was not."
  - homoiousios - Similar Substance (Arius)
  - homoousios - The Same Substance (Eventual position the council sided with)
- In the 5th century, Western churches began including the Filioque Clause: ("[The Holy Spirit] proceeds from the Father *and the Son.*")

### The Creed of Saint Athanasius (Formally Quicumque Vult)

- Completely unknown in origin.
- Modern scholars generally believe it was probably written in the 6th or 7th century in what is present-day France.

## **Uses in the Liturgy**

### Apostles' Creed

- Can be used as the declaration of faith after the sermon
- Is always used for Baptisms and Confirmation

### Nicene Creed

- The customary creed used as the declaration of faith after the sermon

### Athanasian Creed

- Can be used in place of the Nicene Creed for Trinity Sunday and if deemed appropriate at other times.