

# Episcopal Church

# Episcopal Church

- In other countries known as Church of England or Anglican Church.
- Originated in England, 16<sup>th</sup> Century, by Henry VIII.

# I. Its Origin

# Julius II arranged marriage:

- Catharine of Aragon and Arthur, Prince of Wales
- Arthur died 4 months later
- Spain insisted she marry Henry
- Julius said the union was sinful, but granted permission
  - 1 K.12

# Henry: obsessed with male descendant

- Mary did not count
- He found a way: Lv.20:21
- 1527: asked Clement VII to annul his marriage (undo Julius' ruling)
- Clement refused . . .
  - Cannot undo ruling of previous pope
  - Feared power of Charles V, her uncle

# Henry appealed to English scholars

- 1532: clergy found legend: Joseph of Arimathea
- 1533: convinced Parliament to enact law: King of England is . . .

'their single protector & only supreme Lord, as far as that is permitted by the law of Christ, the supreme head of the church and of the clergy.'

- Then he secretly married Anne Boleyn

# Catholic Church excommunicated Henry (1534)

Parliament passed Act of Supremacy:  
made Henry head of Anglical Church

1. He broke relations with Catholic Church and Pope.
2. Anne distributed many Protestant materials.
3. Two years after Tyndale's prayer (1536) . . .

I. Its Origin

II. Its Head

# Henry's wives

- Catherine of Aragon (mother of 'Bloody Mary)
- Anne Boleyn (1533):
- Jane Seymour (mother of Edward)
- Anne, sister of Duke of Cleves
- Catherine Howard (1542)
- Catherine Parr.
  - Mk.6

# Henry's wish

- Henry did not want a Protestant England
- Henry did not want a Roman Catholic England
- Henry wanted a Catholic England
- Problem: having allowed people to read Bible for themselves...
- Catherine Parr educated Edward and Elizabeth – ardent protestants

# Henry's successors

- Edward VI (1547-1553)
  - Age ten to age fifteen
  - Completed doctrinal reformation (Prayer books)
- Mary (1553-1558) – Catholic – clock turned back 20 years
  - Tried to restore papal control

I. Its Origin

II. Its Head

III. Its Creeds

# 1789: adopted constitution for 'Book of Common Prayer' (U.S.)

- 'Episcopalians believe that a prescribed form of service, with parts assigned to clergy and people, is the most fitting way to adore God.'
- Bible: 'does not hold to literal inerrancy of Scripture. The Bible is considered sacred for its general inspiration, as the record of God's revelation.'

# 1789: adopted constitution for 'Book of Common Prayer' (U.S.)

- '...maintains a balance between gospel and tradition, on the one hand, and the use of reason on the other ... Episcopal Church has accepted the theory of evolution as an account of man's origin, as well as other new scientific discoveries, without disturbing its central beliefs'
- Mk.10:6-7; Ro.5:12; 1 Tim.2:13-14; Jn.10:31-35

I. Its Origin

II. Its Head

III. Its Creeds

IV. Its Organization

# Man-made organization

- 'The clergy of the C of E consists of three orders – deacons, priests (presbyters), and bishops. The canonical age is respectively 23, 24, & 30.'
- 'The people have no voice in the choice of their rector, but the rector, once inducted, has absolute control of the church, so that not even the bishop may enter it w/o his consent'
  - Contrast NT

I. Its Origin

II. Its Head

III. Its Creeds

IV. Its Organization

V. Its Teachings

# Jesus

‘They believe that He is ‘truly God and truly man, united in one person’ for the salvation of mankind. There are different ways of understanding and teaching this doctrine...’ ‘There is no disagreement within the Church on the *theological* meaning of the Virgin Birth. There has been, and still is, disagreement about the Virgin Birth in its biological detail. Most Episcopalians probably accept it as literally true; some regard it as symbolic in character. The Episcopal Church is able to contain both types of thinking within it’

# Bible

‘The Episcopal Church does not hold to the literal inerrancy of Scripture. The Bible is considered sacred for its general inspiration, as the record of God’s revelation...’

## Three ‘ins’ –

1. Inspiration. 2 Tim.3:16-17
2. Infallibility. Jn.10:34-35
3. Inerrancy. Tit.1:2

These stand or fall together

# Birth sin

‘Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk) but it is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam... in every person born into the world, it deserveth God’s wrath and condemnation’

## Strange if true...

1. Mt.18:3, role models
2. Mt.19:14, what He is looking for

# Infant baptism

Baptismal regeneration (water saves)  
Prayer book

## Deafening Silence

# Free Will

‘the condition of Man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength & good works, to faith, & calling upon God. Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will’

Mt.23:37; Jn.7:17; 8:44

# Faith

‘that we are justified by Faith only, is a most wholesome Doctrine, and very full of comfort’

James 2; Galatians 5:6

# Sin

‘The Episcopal Church has been nonpuritanical in most respects; it believes that God intends men to enjoy life – if they can do so w/o such excesses as will harm them . . . [gambling, drinking...]. The Episcopal Church has on the whole been ‘liberal’ in attitude, feeling that the evils come when the activities are abused’ ’

‘Nonpuritanical’ says it all

John Shelby Spong