

I Cor 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

I. ROOTS OF THE DENOMINATIONS

- A. Until the Protestant Reformation in 1517, there were basically three branches of Christianity (so called)
 - 1. Roman Catholic Church
 - 2. Eastern Orthodox Church
 - 3. Independent groups like the Anabaptists
- B. Within twenty years, three branches split off the Roman Catholic Church
 - 1. In 1517 Luther separated from the Catholic church and his followers ultimately became known as the Lutherans. The Moravian church came from this branch.
 - 2. In 1534 the Anglican church separated from the Catholic church after King Henry VIII failed to get Pope Clement VII to dissolve his marriage with Catherine of Aragon. This ultimately resulted in several groups
 - a. The Church of England (Anglican church) was the direct result
 - b. In the late 1700's the Episcopal church separated from the Church of England - it made no sense for a Church "of England" (Anglican) to exist in a new nation which had rebelled against England (the US).
 - c. In the late 1500's, Robert Browne formed what later was named a "Congregational" church. He was a leader of the separatist Puritans who had left the Church of England.
 - d. The Methodist church split off the Church of England in the 1700's
 - e. The church of the Brethren came from this group in 1830 (Darby)
 - 3. The Swiss reformation in 1534 produced the Reformed church under Calvin which led to the Presbyterian Church in England under Knox in 1560
 - a. As this group lasted many centuries, and was quite large, a number of other groups are loosely
 - b. Some of the groups that resulted are the Church of Christ and the Bible Church
- C. It is interesting to note that no notable groups came from the Eastern Orthodox Church

II. DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS

- A. The Roman Catholic Church had a variety of doctrines that were filtered and passed down to offspringing denominations with Roman Catholic roots
 - 1. Peculiar view on communion such as transubstantiation (that the elements physically become the body and blood)
 - a. The Lutherans believe in consubstantiation (that the elements mystically become body and blood)
 - b. The Anglican church originally held to transubstantiation
 - 2. Existence of priests in churches
 - 3. Baptism by sprinkling and baptism of infants
 - 4. Baptismal regeneration - that baptism regenerates lost souls
 - 5. A Hierarchical form of church government
- B. Some of the new groups took Catholic and other writings and emphasized doctrines that the Catholic church had not made prominent
 - 1. Predestination
 - 2. Arminianism (i.e. that you can lose your salvation)
- C. Salvation based upon man's merit, works, and/or submission to sacraments became the typical way of salvation of all these groups as it had been in the Catholic Church
- D. The culmination of the process is that the Roman Catholic Church is wooing these groups back and they are frequently moving in that direction

III. THE ANGLICAN AND EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- A. In the United States and Scotland, the Anglican church is known as the Episcopal Church
- B. See <http://www.anglican.org/church/ChurchHistory.html> for more information
- C. The name "Anglican" means "of England"
- D. History
 - 1. The Anglican church claims that "it began in the sixth century in England, when Pope Gregory the Great sent St. Augustine to Britain to bring a more disciplined Apostolic succession to the Celtic Christians."
 - a. This spares the notion that they are merely the offshoot of a conflict between the Pope and the King of England
 - b. This is also a clear demonstration that the Anglican Church openly cherishes its ties with the Roman Catholic Church
 - 2. There is clearly some "bad blood" between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church
 - a. The Anglican church claims a "separate apostolic succession" from Rome
 - b. According to the Anglican church, "the Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215, contains 63 points; the very first point is a declaration that the English church is independent of its government."
 - 3. Ultimately, the Anglican church notes that "the Anglican branch of the church formally challenged the authority of Rome. Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and abbeys in 1536."
 - 4. They are quick to emphasize that Henry VIII's divorce was only "one of a series of acts that collectively split the English church from the Roman church"
 - 5. In 1549 the formerly Roman Catholic Book of Common Prayer was simplified and translated into English. Its use was then enforced in the Anglican church. It was further revised in 1552.
 - 6. During the reign of Elizabeth I, the "Thirty Nine Articles" which were based upon the Lutheran Augsburg Confession were published. They are also known as the Anglican Creed.
- E. The Anglican Church claims to have no "central governance" however the Anglican and Episcopal church do have governing bodies at levels higher than the individual congregation (i.e. the Episcopal church recently joined together to vote in favor of allowing homosexual priests)
- F. One example of an Anglican statement of faith of a large congregation in the U. S. had the following positions
 - 1. Our standard of worship is the classic 1928 Book of Common Prayer (Liturgy)
 - 2. We are a Eucharist-centered church, because all that is said above about worship is accomplished and shown forth most completely in the Service of Holy Communion (the Mass)
 - 3. "... we seek to be guided by the concensus of Christian teachers over the centuries" in interpreting the Bible (Tradition)
 - 4. Evangelization is not complete until people have been brought into the fellowship of Christ's Body, the Church (Universal Church)
 - 5. The Christian life begins in Holy Baptism (Baptismal regeneration)
 - 6. Our mission is to introduce people to Christ as He has made Himself known down through the centuries in the teaching and worship and sacraments of the historic Christian church. (Ordinances of man)
 - 7. The source goes on to indicate that the Nicene Creed is part of their belief

IV. THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- A. Official statistics

1. Founded in 1783 as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States
2. Recent membership: 2.4 million baptized members in the late 1990's
3. Organization: 100 domestic dioceses, 13 dioceses in Latin America, Caribbean islands, Europe
4. Clergy: bishops - 310, priests - 14,000, deacons - 1,700
5. Government: General Convention, bicameral legislature with House of Bishops and House of Deputies, meeting every three years
6. Budget: \$40.5 million (1997)
7. Headquarters: Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017 (800) 334-7626

B. History

1. Formally organized in 1783 when representatives of the Church of England in the United States of America met in Maryland and organized the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.
 - a. A year later Samuel Seabury traveled to Scotland be ordained the first Episcopal bishop by three Church of Scotland bishops.
 - b. In 1785 the church's first General Convention, consisting of a House of Deputies, met in Philadelphia.
 - c. The General Convention became a bicameral body in 1789 when the House of Bishops was formed.
 - d. The first American Book of Common Prayer, modeled on the Church of England prayer book, was adopted by General Convention in 1790.
 - e. The church's corporate organization, The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, was founded in 1820.
2. Bishop William White of Pennsylvania was the church's first presiding bishop. Until 1919 the presiding bishop's office was held by the church's most senior bishop.
3. Government and organization
 - a. The Episcopal Church is one of 38 self-governing churches or provinces in the world-wide Anglican Communion.
 - b. The basic unit of organization in the Episcopal Church is the diocese, a geographic group of at least six parishes under the leadership of a bishop. The Episcopal Church comprises 100 domestic dioceses and 13 overseas dioceses.
 - c. The Episcopal Church recognizes three orders of ordained ministers: bishops, priests, and deacons. There are 162 active bishops in the church, serving as diocesan, coadjutor, assistant and suffragan bishops, and over 150 retired bishops. There are around 14,000 priests and 1,700 deacons.

V. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ANGLICAN AND EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- A. First it must be remembered that these organizations have very Roman Catholic roots and therefore have similar positions on salvation, church polity, etc.
- B. Both of these bodies are very caught up in world affairs and standards
 1. They have both tolerated homosexuality in and out of their ranks
 2. They ignore biblical standards for pastors and deacons
- C. Liberalism and modernism are both rampant in these churches. In fact, it would be unlikely that you would find saved people among them at all.
- D. As they have retained traditional forms of worship, and yet have no spiritual life, their numbers are dwindling at a rapid pace. Episcopal church membership went down by 5% in the decade preceding 2000.
- E. The typical member of an Episcopal church would probably consider themselves a good person but would have little or no idea what the Bible teaches about salvation

1. They are trusting in their church to save them
 2. They are also trusting in their baptism and good works
 3. Their church is a social outlet not a place where they focus on the word of God
- F. The Episcopal church is most popular in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Massachusetts as well as in Wyoming, South Carolina and South Dakota.

VI. ANGLICAN AND EPISCOPAL POSITION ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND EVOLUTION
(*Sociology of Religion*, 2011, pp 1-3)

- A. In 2002, the Diocese of New Westminster, in the Anglican Church of Canada, permitted the blessing of same-sex unions.
- B. In 2003, two openly gay men in England and the United States became candidates for bishop.
- C. In the Episcopal Church USA, Gene Robinson was elected and consecrated Bishop of New Hampshire, becoming the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Communion.
1. This was highly controversial and led several hundred bishops to boycott the 2008 Lambeth Conference.
 2. As an alternative to Lambeth, many of these bishops attended the Global Anglican Futures Conference in Jerusalem
- D. On Wednesday, June 14, 2006, the Episcopal News Services reported that the bishops had approved Resolution A129 Affirm Creation and Evolution. The Resolution reads as follows:
1. Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 75th General Convention affirm that God is Creator, in accordance with the witness of Scripture and the ancient Creeds of the Church; and be it further,
 2. Resolved, That the theory of evolution provides a fruitful and unifying scientific explanation for the emergence of life on earth, and that an acceptance of evolution in no way diminishes the centrality of Scripture in telling the stories of the love of God for the Creation and is entirely compatible with an authentic and living Christian faith . . .
- E. This is obviously ridiculous, as the Bible teaches SIX LITERAL DAYS for creation, and not millions and billions of imaginary years.
- F. Biblical Truth of Creation
1. II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
 - a. Plants were created on day 3, the sun on day 4 – this is impossible in the scheme called theistic (i.e. “day age” theory) evolution.
 - b. The days had one evening and one morning - not millions.
- G. The Biblical position on homosexuality
1. It is an abomination – Lev 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
 2. It is condemned – Rom 1:27 . . . the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.