

Thirty-Nine Articles - Themes

Title

Part One: God and the Apostolic Faith

- 1 Of Faith in the Holy Trinity
- 2 Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man
- 3 Of the going down of Christ into Hell
- 4 Of the Resurrection of Christ
- 5 Of the Holy Ghost

Part Two: The Rule of Faith

- 6 Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation
- 7 Of the Old Testament
- 8 Of the Three Creeds

Part Three: Salvation in Christ

- 9 Of Original or Birth Sin
- 10 Of Free Will
- 11 Of the Justification of Man
- 12 Of Good Works
- 13 Of Works before Justification
- 14 Of Works of Supererogation
- 15 Of Christ alone without Sin
- 16 Of Sin After Baptism

Themes

The magnificence of God
God's Being is triune in nature
the Incarnation
the Atonement
The actual death of Christ
The actual resurrection of Christ
The ascension of Christ
The Second Coming of Christ and judgment
The Holy Spirit is God
The double procession

The Scriptures convey enough to save us
No other content is needed
The list of canonical books
OT, NT are continuous in their message

The Moral Commandments have ongoing authority
History of the councils and creeds

Sin is part of our human nature, not just bad behavior
Sin affects all people
Sin puts us at war with the Holy Spirit, and under God's judgment
this is true even in those who are saved in Christ - until he comes
apart from Christ, our wills are in bondage to sin
in conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart to God, and begins to change our inclinations, so that we seek to please him
Because of Jesus' merit, God counts us righteous with him
we receive this merit by faith in Jesus, not because of anything we do
good works do not put away our sin
good works please God
good works are the inevitable consequence of genuine trust in Jesus
works "before" justification do not please God
such works do not put away sin; indeed, they themselves are sinful
there is no "minimum" work to satisfy God, and therefore no "extra" works can please him
only Christ is without sin
the rest of us continue to sin, whether we know him or not
there is an unforgiveable sin
it is possible (indeed, inevitable) that a person will sin post-conversion

16 Of Sin After Baptism cont'd)	post-conversion sins are forgivable when the person confesses them and repents
17 Of Predestination and Election	there is no perfectionism here and now God chooses some and not others the elect are effectually called by the Spirit (so they can know it) to the saved, this is a comforting doctrine, but the lost are angered by it
18 Of obtaining eternal Salvation only by the Name of Christ	people are not saved by sincere trust in another "religion" or faith system but in the Name of Christ alone
Part Four: The Church, Sacraments, and the Ordained Ministry	
19 Of the Church	there are "marks" by which we can know what is a true "visible" church all churches have erred and do err in both doctrine and practice
20 Of the Authority of the Church	the church's authority is under Scripture Scripture does not contradict itself nothing may be added to the Gospel as necessary for salvation the church has authority to determine "secondary" matters not prescribed by Scripture
21 Of the Authority of General Councils	Anglicans honor the decisions of the First Four Ecumenical Councils Councils must be called by Princes All councils are liable to err, and have erred General Councils have no binding authority where they have erred
22 Of Purgatory	versus RC teachings that contradict Scripture No purgatory or manmade "pardons"
23 Of Ministering in the Congregation	no worship of relics or images, no prayers to the saints ordained ministers must be lawfully called and sent The Church has appointed those with lawful authority to call and send ministers
24 Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the people understandeth	Liturgy must be conducted in the known language of the congregation failure to do so contradicts Scripture
25 Of the Sacraments	gives the definition of a sacrament defines the two Gospel sacraments states the proper use of the sacraments
26 Of the Unworthiness of the Ministers, which hinders not the effect of the Sacraments	immoral ministers do not invalidate the message or the sacraments immoral ministers should be disciplined
27 Of Baptism	Baptism is the sign of the Holy Spirit's regeneration Baptism initiates people into the Church where their faith is confirmed and they can grow in grace Baptising young children is in accord with Christ's institution
28 Of the Lord's Supper	The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption Transubstantiation is unbiblical and inconsistent with the nature of a sacrament the Body of Christ is given and received spiritually

- 28** Of the Lord's Supper (cont'd)
- 29** Of the Wicked, which eat not the Body of Christ in the use of the Lord's Supper
- 30** Of both Kinds
- 31** Of the one Oblation of Christ finished upon the Cross
- 32** Of the Marriage of Priests
- 33** Of excommunicate Persons, how they are to be avoided
- 34** Of the Traditions of the Church
- 35** Of the Homilies
- 36** Of Consecration of Bishops and Ministers
- the Lord's Supper is not to be misused
unrepentant Christians, and unbelievers do not receive Christ's Body and Blood in the sacrament but they receive to their own condemnation
- no Church may deviate from Christ's institution, which is Communion in both the bread and the cup
- Christ's offering on the Cross is once for all sufficient to cover the sins of the whole world
- There is no "re-sacrifice" - this is unbiblical and a delusion
- Scripture does not require ordained leaders to be single
- Ordained ministers may marry if God calls them to
- The Church can and must excommunicate those who openly denounce it
- This must be done by the proper authority
- the whole Church must honor such a judgment and observe it
- Traditions of the Church may vary from place to place and time to time, as long as they do not contradict Scripture
- the stated traditions and ceremonies of the particular church must be observed by individual members
- national Churches may change manmade traditions prn
- The homilies are excellent in doctrine and morals
- the homilies, as such, are not to be read in local congregations as part of corporate worship
- The Anglican ordinal from the BCP is adequate and conforms to Scripture
- those who are ordained according to the rite of the Ordinal are truly and lawfully ordained

Part Five: Christianity and Civic Responsibilities

- 37** Of the Power of the Civil Magistrates
- 38** Of Christian Men's Goods, which are not common
- 39** Of a Christian Man's Oath
- "40"** What issues **don't** the Articles address?
- clergy, as all citizens, are subject to the civil authorities
- civil magistrates have no authority over the spiritual affairs of the Church
- The death penalty is an acceptable form of punishment according to Scripture; and Christians are permitted, when commanded by the State, to use weapons and serve in wars
- Christians may possess private property
- all Christians should give liberally to the poor
- Christians may not swear casual or rash oaths
- Christians may take an oath required by the State if to do so serves justice, and the truth is told