

## Sunday Morning Study: The 39 Articles of Religion

Sundays, 9-10:45 a.m., beginning Sep 17

Men are warmly invited to join us on Sunday mornings for a facilitated study of the 39 Articles of Religion – brief statements which carefully summarize the doctrines and distinctives of Anglicanism. Each week we will aim to cover 1-2 Articles, using the following methodology:

- A. Introduction – a brief overview of each Article and its meaning.
- B. Bible References – relevant Bible references to support each Article.
- C. Implications – moving from simple head knowledge of doctrine to experiencing the implications of each Article for our lives.
- D. Application – Applying that truth in our daily living by walking closer with God and bearing fruit as a result.

The process of creating the Thirty-nine Articles began in 1538 with the composition of 13 Articles by Thomas Cranmer (Archbishop of Canterbury and leader in the English Reformation). After several revisions, they became finalized as the Thirty-nine Articles in 1571 and are still affirmed by the Anglican Church today.

Why study the 39 Articles?

- That we understand the healthy theological perimeters the Articles provide – There is more and more pressure today for the modern Church to accept cultural trends and new winds of doctrine. The Articles remind us not to give our culture more authority than the Word of God.
- That we grow Spiritually – Christians have a responsibility to grow in familiarity with Biblical doctrines - The Thirty-Nine Articles provide a valuable starting point. Growing in our understanding of Biblical doctrine principally means developing a well-founded assurance in our salvation and seeing this assurance lead to our Christian worldview impacting all other areas of our lives.
- That we be prepared to give a defense for our faith – The Bible calls Christians to “honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in [them]; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Pet 3:15). We need to be ready to give a winsome defense of our faith. The Articles move us to answer the Biblical call to be apologists in our time and culture. They should embolden us to be ambassadors who confront the postmodern and post-truth challenges that are increasing in our culture. Acquaintance with the Thirty-Nine Articles grounds Christians in their witness, encouraging them to be faithful to Jesus and clear in their message.

Reference material: *The Thirty-nine Articles: Their Place and Use Today*, by J.I. Packer and R.T. Beckwith