

# **Being A Christian** Class 6

## **Safety Ropes for Stability** *Anglican Spirituality*

**Review:** *All of the Bible tells the Story of God's great love for his creation seen supremely in Jesus. Its purpose is to enable us to live in a restored personal relationship with God the Father, through God the Son, in God the Spirit. If we fail to know and live within the Story, the world's stories rob the freedom of our inheritance as God's beloved children.*

**Anglican Spirituality:** *What is it?*

*Creative Tension:*

*Incarnational:*

*Lex orandi, Lex credendi*

*Scripture and Anglican Formularies*

*Prayer Book Rhythms*

**Continuing & Persevering:** *Repentant Faith*

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

**What evil?** *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil*

*World:* system that has embraced values, ideas, and mindset of the Devil.

*Devil:* angelic being who seeks to enslave and destroy God's creatures. Uses two strategies and two weapons.

*Flesh:* the element within humans that generates desires hostile to God & opposes His will. (*Rom. 7:15-20; Gal. 5:16-17*)

## ***The Enemy's....***

*2 Strategies:*

*2 Weapons:*

## **How do we resist evil? *Understanding the Heart and Worship***

*What the heart desires, the will chooses, and the mind justifies – Thomas Cranmer  
(Luke 6:43-45)*

False worship *aka* idolatry is when something/one other than God takes functional lordship of the heart.

1) Acknowledge

2) Understand

3) Be active

## **Not “if” but whenever....**

*Sin is a condition, not just a behavior, so true repentance is a lifestyle, not just an occasional practice  
– Bob Thune*

**RENEWING THE POWER TO LOVE** ~ *Recognize, Return, Rejoice*

Repentance is always about returning to a relationship, to communion & fellowship  
(*Lk. 15:11-32; Rev. 3:19-20; Is. 30:15*)

**Continuing in the Way** (*Mark 4:26-29*)

How does the seed grow?

**Cultivating the Seed** (*John 15:4; Gal. 5:25; Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 2:42*)

Word:

Fellowship:

Sacrament:

Prayer:

*What's missing?*

## **Week 6 Review - Safety Ropes for Stability: Anglican Spirituality**

- Christian spirituality is seeking to live a life authentic to our biblical beliefs and values by growing in relationship with Jesus through the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Anglican Spirituality is a creative tension that does not separate sacred from secular, head from heart, individual from community, Protestant from Catholic, or Word from sacrament.
- Anglican Spirituality is incarnational as it affirms the goodness of the material world and our senses; taking a sacramental view of the material world as the doorway to the divine.
- The Bible is the standard for all faith and practice in Anglican Spirituality, like the big wheel on a tricycle it moves and directs everything.
- The Formularies provide the framework for the Anglican way of being a Christian. The 39 Articles are the doctrine and teaching of the church. The Ordinal are the services for ordination. The Prayer Book contains the standard practice and worship for Anglicans. The Formularies are rooted in Scripture.
- The Prayer Book with its daily Scripture readings, personal and corporate devotions, prayers and thanksgivings for all occasions, worship services, Psalter, church calendar, and pastoral offices help provide rhythms for life that keep us within the Story of Salvation.
- The Bible tells us that we have a three-fold enemy: the world, the flesh, and the devil
- The devil has 2 strategies: 1. blind us to his presence 2. attribute too much power to him /over focus
- The devil uses 2 weapons: 1. Temptation - promising us a false future causing us to take our eyes off of God's holiness 2. Accusation - tries to bind us in shame causing us to take our eyes off of God's love and mercy
- Self-loathing is a form of self-condemnation. Strangely it may seem like a virtue "At least I know I'm broken," but it is actually a greater sin than whatever we are condemning ourselves over. Rom. 8:1 says there is no condemnation for Christians, thus when we condemn our selves we are saying that the cross is not big enough for us.
- Paul tells us that we fight an internal battle between our flesh (that part of us that is still opposed to God's will) and the Holy Spirit at work in us (Rom. 7:15-20; Gal. 5:16-17).
- The Bible refers to the heart as the core of the person that encompasses the will, mind, and emotions and is active in causing and shaping behavior.
- Jesus said that our outward behavior flows out of our hearts, thus whatever we treasure in our hearts shapes our behavior (Luke 6:43-45). This means that what we worship influences our actions.
- Idolatry is false worship and occurs when some good thing that God has created takes the functional lordship of our heart, because we treasure it over God. Examples are sex (relationships), money (possessions), power (influence), control (security), approval, and comfort.
- *We resist evil by* 1) Acknowledging we are helpless on our own. Will power and behaviorism are not enough on their own to bring deep, lasting change. Thus in our baptismal covenant we respond, "I will with God's help." We need the Spirit's empowering to resist evil.
- 2) Understanding our true identity as God's beloved children. We are indeed new creations in Christ. The flesh has lost its controlling power over our lives, now it remains as an opposing force. The good news of the cross tells us that the flesh is so rebellious that Jesus had to die to overthrow it, and that we are so loved that He willingly did it. We are now empowered by the Holy Spirit to become in practice what God says we are in actuality.
- 3) Be active in taking hold of the means of grace. We are not passive in this battle against evil.
- Repentance is always about returning to a relationship, to communion and fellowship with the living God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 15:11-32; Rev. 3:19-20; Is. 30:15).
- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, but never condemns. His voice is always guiding us to turn back to Christ, to come home, to rejoice in being God's children, and to empower us to live in line with that truth. There is a clear distinction between the loving chastisement of a father and the conviction of a criminal.
- Though we are not the originator of our faith, or the power that makes it grow, God does invite us to cultivate our faith so that it may be fruitful (Mark 4:26-29; John 15:4; Gal. 5:25). Thus, we are invited to structure our lives so that we avail ourselves of God's means of grace: Word, Sacrament, Fellowship (*the Body*), Prayer, and Service (Gal 5:25; Rom 12:1-2; Acts 2:42).

## Material Covered

*Christian Basics* ~ Chapter 9

Anglican Ethos and Church Calendar Hand Out

- Review notes looking up Scripture passages
- Explore the Prayer Book
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's influence, guidance, and power

## Prayer Book Helps

[www.missionstclare.com](http://www.missionstclare.com)

Has the daily lectionary and offices from the 1979 Prayer Book updated each day.  
Also has links to daily devotions.

Has Morning, Noonday, and Compline prayer in audio. These include background music.

[www.thetrinitymission.org](http://www.thetrinitymission.org)

Has the daily lectionary readings for the future ACNA Prayer Book.

Has Morning, Noonday, and Evening prayer services said daily in audio.