

Study Questions Chapter 1

“Anglican – Ism”

1. If the starting point of the Anglican – Ism is the Via Media, middle way between Catholic and Protestant, How close to the middle between the two is your church? More Catholic? More Protestant?
2. Is comprehensive characteristic evidenced in the Anglican expression a positive trait, or a negative one? Why or why not?
3. Jewel ground the Anglican Church on the foundation of the Apostles, bypassing 1000yrs of Roman Catholics. Is this possible? Valid?
4. How did Liberal, Evangelical, and Charismatic all develop from the protestant pole of the Via Media? How do they differ from one another?
5. Is the Big Tent concept of church community appealing? Would you prefer a smaller tent?
6. Liberal Episcopalians claim the right to call themselves Anglican? Is this proper and true?
7. Describe the Anglican – Ism in your own words based on your reading of chapter one, and/or your own personal experience?
8. The three legged stool model is well known in Anglican circles. Should all three legs be considered equal? What would Hooker’s viewpoint be? Does his point of view need to be amended to account for historical developments?

Study Questions Chapter 2

“Paradigm to Paradigm”

1. In your own words define the meaning of *a paradigm shift*.
2. How would you describe your own personal paradigm?
Can you think of a time when your personal paradigm shifted?
Why did this happen?
What was the cause and effect?
3. Chapter two walks us through the historical paradigms of Western Society.
Which era would you be most comfortable in living in?
4. Can you think of particular thoughts or changes that stand out as a key part of causing a paradigm shift between the eras?
Perhaps persons, actions, or events that may be observed at the junction of the shifts between eras.
5. What is the evidence that you can observe that may point to the fact that we are living in the new paradigm of One-world?
How are the precepts/values beamed at us?
Where do you see and hear the One-world message?

Study Questions
Chapter 3

“Two Visions”

1. In your own words, what does it mean to be a Christian?
2. This chapter describes two different “Christian” visions that have developed over time within the Anglican communion. Can both legitimately claim the title of Anglican?
3. Is it proper to label these two different modes of expression as Liberal vs. Orthodox? Progressive vs. Conservative? How else would you make the distinction?
4. Orthodox literally means “right doctrine”, or conforming to approved doctrine or belief. What do you make of the claim from both camps that they are in fact orthodox? If conservatives are orthodox, are liberals heretics?
5. Why can't we all just be friends? Accept our differences and stay together. After all, isn't unity the most important thing?

Study Questions
Chapter 4

“Crisis”

1. Do you think we are facing a crisis in the Anglican church? in Christianity in general? or are we just passing through a phase that will work itself out eventually?

2. Chapter four lists four responses to the crisis - denial; reconciliation; détente and reformation. When faced with a crisis/conflict in your own personal life, which of the four are you familiar with? Do any work better than others?

3. Where do you see us here at St. Luke’s in our current situation? Which of the responses are we engaged in? are there more than one?

4. What are other ways of responding to this crisis which are not mentioned in this chapter? Is there an alternative solution that you think would prove more effective?

5. Reconciliation in particular is a highly valued Christian trait, grounded in theology? Can reconciliation work to bring unity to the Liberal/Conservative division? Why or why not?

6. Which is more important unity or truth?

Study Questions Chapter 5

“Anglican Re-Formation”

1. The Lambeth Quadrilateral sets forth four marks that together comprise the expression of the Anglican Church: 1) The Holy Scriptures; 2) The Creeds; 3) The Sacraments – Baptism and Communion; 4) The Historic Episcopate.

Which of these four is the most crucial? How do you rate them in order of importance? Or can they be separated at all without everything unraveling?

2. When confronted with heresies, the early church augmented and clarified the creeds. Using the Nicene creed as a template, expand and clarify the sections you deem necessary to safeguard the faith in our day.

3. Anglican Re-Formation is advocating for a new organizational structure, or polity, in which a central council of the church would have authority to set boundaries and bring correction. How would such a council be formed? What would be the necessary requirements and safeguards for it to function effectively?

4. List the ways in which you observe the prevailing culture exerting influence over the doctrine and worship of the church. What are the boundaries that need to be put in place to prevent the church from being overrun by the culture?

5. How will a re-formation of the Anglican Communion be resisted? How is this already taking place? What is the main obstacle that must be overcome for reformation to take place?

6. In the long run:

What will happen if re-formation does not take place?

What will happen if re-formation does take place?

Study Questions Chapter 7

“The Anglican World”

1. What evidence do you observe which may indicate that we are now living in a new historical era? What are the precepts/values that are being beamed at us? Where do you see and hear these messages?
2. What is the most prominent feature of the new paradigm? How has this changed from the previous paradigms of modernity and postmodernity?
3. Christ prayed that his disciples (*the church*) would be one. Does the current state of affairs in the Anglican Communion increase the likelihood of this happening, or decrease it?
4. What is the most essential thing that all Anglicans must agree upon as a basis for unity? and, What is the chief obstacle that Anglicans must overcome in order to achieve unity?
5. How would it be possible for all Christian churches to gather together in communion? Do you think the re-formation of the Anglican Church will serve as a basis for such unification, or is there something else which you consider more vital or effective?