

WEEK 2: Compass Rose (Via Media)

REVIEW: Rooted & Contextual // Centered Set v Bounded Set // Lex orandi, lex credendi

Anglicanism = a Via Media (middle way) between the “additions” to the OHCAF of the Roman church and the “deletions” of the Protestant Reformers.

- Pre 1054 = OHCAC, rooted in one canon of Scripture, one faith, one sacramental life, one apostolic ministry...
- 1054 - Great Schism between Western Church (Roman Catholic), and Eastern Church (EO)
 - Jurisdiction of Rome, etc...
- Protestant Reformation = Lutherans, Calvinists, Anabaptists, etc... throwing off Rome’s rule/influence. Rejecting episcopate, sacraments, sometimes even creeds... “sola scriptura”
- English Reformation = kept all four, sought to return to faith/order of early undivided church, under Scripture...
- Thus a VIA MEDIA between Rome / Protestants.

Compass Rose - logo for Anglican Communion (all corners of the earth)

- 8 directional arrows / 4 bars
- 8 main “ways” to lead a Christian life... find ourselves at different places.
- Some at the edges, others toward the center... illustrates some of the implications

Directions:

- Horizontal bar east/west = “Me” vs “We” - **Evangelical** (personal faith, me and Jesus) and **catholic** (belonging, raised this way, corporate)
- Vertical bar north/south = “Here” vs “There” - **Charismatic** (God is a friend/brother/lover - God is close, speaks to them in their hearts - the Spirit is moving here and now) and **Orthodox** (God is different/holy, transcendent - we receive the faith from our ancestors and have a duty to guard it as “once delivered”)
- NE/SW bar = “Be” vs “Do” - **Contemplative** (resting in what God has done, who God is, accepted by God) and **Activist** (Doing the right thing, standing up for justice, ethics, concerned for systemic injustice and institutional sin).
- NW/SE bar = “Stop” vs “Go” - **Conservative** (those who are cautious about change - not in a hurry to innovate - “how did we handle this in the past?”) and **Liberal/Progressive** (Go forward, forging a new path, relevance, responsiveness to culture, “What’s best, even if we’ve never done it before?”)

Some questions for discussion

- Where are you on these bars?
- Have you ever thought that those in other places weren’t Christians?
- Have you ever wondered why you can’t be *more than one thing*? You might be an Anglican ;)

Anglicans are **EVANGELICAL**

- Tarnished term lately! It does NOT mean “conservative-white-Republican who voted for Trump.”
- “*Euangelion*” = good news. Gospel - announcement that Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews who was crucified, was raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God as the Lord of the whole cosmos. Jesus is Lord!
- Key values:
 - **Conversion** - no one is a Christian “automatically” (even if baptized as an infant and grow up as a Christian). - Following Jesus personally is part of Christian life. Transformation and discipleship are expected, part of the deal.
 - **Engagement** - Practice what you preach, BE a Christian, don’t just show up for church. (Wilberforce vs slavery)
 - **High view of Scripture** - Scripture is the supreme source of authority for the church. (Then tradition, but scripture is higher than tradition.)
 - **Cross-centered** - Death and resurrection of Jesus is the hinge point of history, accomplishing salvation, etc. Also forms the shape of our lives as Christians (Boyd).
 - **Evangelism** - We have a responsibility to proclaim the good news of Jesus to others, in word and deed, but the words are pretty important!
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **CATHOLIC**

- Historically speaking, we come out of a Reformation in England, so we’re kind of like Protestants, BUT it was an attempt to reclaim the faith and order of the early undivided church, which was CATHOLIC.
 - Undivided Catholic Church... 1054 = Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox.
 - English Reformation = Anglican, Roman Catholic, and EO as “fellowships” of the Catholic Church (faith, sacraments, scripture, ministry).
 - Catholic = universal, or “whole” (from the creed) - single, undivided, worldwide church.
- Key Values:
 - **Tradition** - unity in a way of life. Tend to distrust individualism in spiritual life. Received faith, we don’t get to make this up. Prayers that other Christians would recognize...
 - My gateway drug = realizing the Church has had a pattern of worship for 2000 years...
 - **Sacraments** - unity in means of grace. “Outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, and a *sure and certain means of receiving that grace...*” More than an ordinance, Christ is present. We eat and drink the body and blood of Christ when we receive Holy Communion. Jesus is present in bread and wine. Don’t need a profound thought or an emotional goosebump, just the bread and wine. No matter what’s going on, we can receive Jesus in eating and drinking.

- I could take or leave most sermons, tbh - but I need the Eucharist (even when traveling)
 - **Belonging** - unity in community. Strong sense of communal identity. Baptism = covenantal belonging (before belief!)
 - **Authority** - unity under bishops. Bishops are spiritual inheritors of their office through apostolic teaching and succession... Laying on of hands, ordaining to this ministry, all the way back to Christ and the Apostles. Bishops are to “preach the Word” and “administer godly discipline.”
 - Bugs us as Americans. Someone telling us what to do?
 - Not so much “punishment,” but setting boundaries, saying “yes” and “no”, giving guidance to the diocese to live in the Anglican Way.
 - Not “closer to God,” or holier, more loved, more saved - just those who have been given the great burden and joy of leading others in the Anglican Way.
 - *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **CHARISMATIC**

- Holy Spirit is alive and well, and active in the church today.
 - Healing prayer ministry starting soon - we believe God is present and at work by his Spirit (and in the Sacraments, and in the Scripture).
- Key values:
 - **Intimacy with Christ** - real encounters with God, hearing his voice, etc.
 - **Being filled with the Holy Spirit** - more grace for ministry and life! Joy and peace, conviction of sin - awareness that I’m not alone. Can affect the body. Tears, shaking, groaning, “slain in the Spirit!” etc.
 - **Supernatural power** - in some ways everything God does is “supernatural” (i.e. beyond the “Natural” world apart from God), but charismatics believe that God works and acts in amazing ways - healings, miracles, etc.
 - **Mystical experience** - Prophecy, dreams, visions, etc. All over the NT, still happens today. God meets us in ways that are difficult to explain/talk about.
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **ORTHODOX**

- God = eternal/unchanging (charismatic = personal/close)
- “Orthodox” = “conforming to established doctrine” - right worship, right belief.
- Key values:
 - **Historic theology** - God has been at work across millenia, we trust that which has been established.
 - **Fatherly/motherly guidance** - All authority to Christ, who conferred it to Apostles, who conferred it to others... (now known as bishops), who conferred it on Priests (“elders” in the NT), and Deacons. Priests lead communities under the authority of the bishop, and deacons serve the church as Christ’s presence in the world, especially as they care for those on the margins of society.

- Priests are called “Father/Mother” and it refers to the kind of leadership Christ has ordained. A priest lays down his/her life for the church as a father/mother does for his/her children...
 - **Sanctity of worship** - there is an order to worship that has been established that we shouldn’t mess around with. Not exact words, necessarily, but overall pattern to respect.
 - **Windows into heaven** - Icons. Art that portrays Jesus or Mary or a saint, often looking straight at you. Meant to be “seen through” into heaven! Invited to look into the deeper reality of the goodness, holiness, and love of God himself. We are not iconoclasts - rather, we value beauty / art as a “window into heaven.” Aesthetics matter for us.
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **ACTIVIST**

- Activism at its best = intentional action toward some kind of social/political goal.
- We have the Great Commission: “Go and make disciples...” we are a church on mission, and this demands action/involvement.
- Good example = Desmond Tutu (Anglican Bishop). Nobel Prize 1984 for leadership in struggle against apartheid. Truth and reconciliation commission sought to heal the wounds of South Africa with forgiveness.
- Not afraid to take meaningful action in the world, to get involved, put our bodies on the line for the poor, oppressed, marginalized.
- (NOT to be used as pawns in America’s political games, but to BE our own politics publicly.)
- Careful not to let this devolve into striving (working *for* God instead of *with* him).
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **CONTEMPLATIVE**

- Lots of ways to define this, but essentially it means we practice becoming more and more aware of God’s presence and love at all times.
- Abbot Philip of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert (New Mexico): *“Contemplative life is not about my effort to focus my life on the Lord Jesus. It is about the Lord Jesus reaching out to me and loing me. When I recognize that He loves me and is reaching out to me, then I can begin to live from His love and nor from my efforts. It is living from God’s love for us that makes us, finally, complemplative. It is not our efforts. It is not our prayer. It is all about responding to God’s mercy in our lives and living that mercy toward others.”*
- Our sermons are contemplative - they don’t whip us into action, they simply proclaim what God has done, how reality is different than we walked in thinking it was.
- Our axioms are contemplative statements...
 - God is always present and at work.
 - God is just like Jesus.
 - God cares about (all of) it more than we do.
 - God is so real he most fully meets us right where we really are.

- What God does through you he also does in you.
- Life is about divine union (not perfect belief or perfect behavior)
- We learn love through embodied participation.
- Rowan Williams - contemplation is the only real answer to the unreal and insane world that our financial systems and advertising culture encourage us to inhabit.
- Contemplation and action go together when each is being done well. Our action is infused with confidence and peace in God's grace, and our contemplation connects us to others, rather than isolates us.
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*

Anglicans are **LIBERAL** and **CONSERVATIVE**

- Not talking about being taken captive my American politics here (although many Anglicans are, on both sides).
- **Conservative impulse** = maintaining the shape of historic faith entrusted to us. Conforming to these patterns, trusting our ancestors in the faith, rather than assuming our current ideas are better.
 - G.K. Chesterton: *"Tradition means giving a vote to most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead... Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about... Tradition asks us not to neglect a good man's opinion, even if he is our father."*
- **Liberal impulse** = marked by generosity, openhanded, broad-minded... concerned with liberty, freedom! Anglicanism was a *Reformation* thing, after all. It was a *change*, a liturgical experiment.
- Unfortunately these words have become co-opted by a culture war that is wasteful and useless.
 - Culture war wants to pigeonhole Christians into false binaries. Whose team are *you* on? (Well, who decided these were the teams? And who decided what we're fighting about?)
 - We resist this actively at The Table (and I think the best of Anglicanism does, too).
- Impulse to stay together and work things out vs separate for the sake of purity.
- *Questions, kairoses, comments, concerns?*