

Anglicans do not believe that the Church can make a binding definition of doctrine which is not evidently supported by Scripture nor a necessary conclusion from revealed truth. This is the serious problem raised for them by the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. They question the necessity for the Church to make statements of essential doctrine in Marian rather than directly Christological terms. They find the claim to infallibility all the more difficult to accept when it has been exercised in this way. They would also wish to know whether, in any future union between our two Churches, they would also be required to subscribe to such dogmatic statement. One consequence of our separation has been a tendency for Anglicans and Roman Catholics alike to exaggerate the importance of the Marian dogmas to such a degree that far more important issues have been neglected or obscured.