

DRAFTSubjects for inclusion in the study of Church and Authority

Start from: Two Churches with "two moral traditions, two concepts of authority, two life-styles" (Dunstan). Much in common but much divergence (Purdy). Development in divided Churches (Knapp-Fisher).

Authority in the world today (Chadwick). The breakdown of authority and the need to rehabilitate the whole concept of authority (Knapp-Fisher).

Return to: 'Our authorities'

God's will and purpose for the church and the world,
revealed in Christ - Our Lord - the nature of His
Authority -

revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Sources of revelation and their interpretation and
application:

Scripture, tradition, reason; church, councils,
episcopate, faithful.

Normative principles; criteria.

On this basis:

Ecclesiology - the Mystery of the Church -

Koinonia in New Testament and early Church - a church
structured for mission.

Typoi, "local Church", inter-relation of churches, and
their structure, levels of authority, diversity in
unity, comprehensiveness, primacy and primacies.

Schism and reconciliation.

The historical development in East and West of authority
in doctrine and teaching, discipline and morals,
jurisdiction, appeals and appointments.

Doctrine and teaching - hierarchy of truths -
comprehensiveness - the limits of diversity - respect
for Spirit-given diversity - dogmatic definitions and
freedom of restatement - sensus fidelium - teaching
office of bishops - Councils - bishop of Rome -
guidance, indefectibility, infallibility, Papal and
mariological definitions -

Discipline and morals - canon law - pastoral instruction -
"the making, commending and enforcement of moral
judgments within the Church" -

Jurisdiction - Papal, Patriarchal, Anglican, and Episcopal -
appeals and appointments - style of exercising
authority.

Conclusion: The shape of authority in a united church.

Assignments for 1974

1. The redemptive character of Christ's authority and its relation to authority in the Church.

(Purdy paras. 39ff.) South African A./R.C.
(Bishop Knapp-Fisher)

2. The concept of Koinonia as the basis of New Testament Ecclesiology.

(See also paper by Fr. Ahern)

Papers from ARC/USA
(Fr. Ryan, Bishop Vogel)

3. Ecclesiology in the Light of Vatican II

('local church' (Knapp-Fisher) 'typos (Lanne-Willebrands).
'Towards a developing Ecclesiology' (French A/RC) the Holy Spirit in Vatican II (Pelly), Bibliography on Ecclesiology (Muddiman)).

Oxford Sub-Commission
(Dr. Halliburton, Fr. Yarnold)

4. A 'Hierarchy of Truths' and the 'Anglican distinction between fundamentals and non-fundamentals'.

(G. Tavard: 'Hierarchia Veritatum': a preliminary investigation; International Theological Commission "Unity of Faith and theological pluralism"; Root-Moorman and Willebrands on Unity and Comprehensiveness. N.B. Criteria, the limits of doctrinal diversity, and the place of papal and mariological definitions in a 'hierarchia veritatum'.)

Rome Sub-Commission
(Dr. Smythe, Mgr. Purdy and Gregorian University's Fr. W. Ellos, S.J.)

5. (a) A Study of 'Pastor Eternus' and the use made in the 19th century and at the time of the Acacian schism of the Formula of Hormisdas.

Fr. Herbert Ryan
(In collaboration with U.S. Anglican)

- (b) An Anglican reaction to 'Mysterium Ecclesiae'

Prof. E.L. Mascall

- (c) A Roman Catholic approach to Infallibility

Fr. Johannes Lütticken

- (d) The New Testament basis for a Petrine Office, peculiar to Peter himself within the apostolic college and community.

Fr. B. Ahern

Bishop R.P.C. Hanson

6. The recent revision of Canon Law in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches and its implications for Anglican/Roman Catholic discussion of authority in the Church.

Professor G.R. Dunstan

7. "Has the Anglican Church any doctrine of the indefectibility of the Church Militant?" (Lord Fisher). "Some Anglicans want to question all claims to infallible authority in Pope or Bible or Church" (English A./R.C. members) (ARCIC 32 p.7). What bearing has this on our discussions?

English ARC
(Miss Daphne Fraser, Fr. Richard Stewart)

8. The nature of schism. How complete can it ever be? What does it do? How is it healed?

Bishop B.C. Butler

9. An examination of Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) as an authoritative description of the authority of Scripture.

Dr. Raymond Pelly

10. Canadian A./R.C. - to be finalised.

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