

Group B

Draft Outline. The Church and Salvation

I Introduction

'Church is community of those reconciled with God and each other because it is the community of those who believe in Jesus Christ and are justified through God's grace. It is also the reconciling community, because it has been called to bring to all mankind, through the preaching of the Gospel, God's gracious offer of redemption'.

(a) Within this statement on the Church and reconciliation the Final Report touched upon an issue which had been thought to divide Anglicans and Roman Catholics, namely justification. Still within the context of the Church and reconciliation we need to look at justification precisely because it has been thought to divide us and still is considered today by some to divide.

(b) Historical background. Not a major issue in Anglican-Roman Catholic relations at time of Reformation but became an issue through links with the Continent.

- Trent 20/(b) para. 4

- Articles " " "

(c) Confusion in the past over the different understandings of the terminology used in the debate.

II What today in the light of shared biblical understanding do we mean by justification?

(1) Definition 20/(a)

(ii) Justification is one of many images of salvation. These images supplement each other as they express different facets of the mystery of salvation. The many images safeguard the distorting effects of the concentration upon one image.

20/(b) paras 1 and 2.

(iii) Justification, faith and grace.

(iv) Justification and sanctification: act and process.

(v) imputing and imparting

III Symptoms arising from what is believed about justification

- assurance
- penance
- indulgences
- purgatory
- merit
- venial sin

IV Implications for the role of the Church concerning justification

- Church as reconciled and reconciling community
- Church as instrument (ARCIC-II 16)

V Importance of affirming agreement today on justification