

Tues. 8th September

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AUTHORITY and KOINONIA

Presupposition:

"The confession of Christ as Lord is the heart of the Christian faith. To him God has given all authority in heaven and on earth. (F.R. Authority I.1).

Five theses:

1. The authority of the Lord Jesus Christ is found within the whole communion of the Church (people and pastors).
2. This authority of Christ finds expression in many ways through the presence of the Spirit in the Church and especially in the Scriptures and Sacraments. But among these differentiated elements of authority there is a special episcope of the ordained ministry, a gift of the Spirit to serve the koinonia in the truth of the Gospel.
3. In the continuing life of the Church through history there is a constant need to proclaim, interpret and apply the gospel, in obedience to Christ and in faithfulness to the apostolic tradition, within the varying cultures and situations in which the Church finds itself. The episcope of the ordained ministry - especially the bishops - involves the responsibility of discerning the authentic proclamation, interpretation and application of the gospel.
4. During the time of our separation this responsibility of discernment has evolved in different juridical and constitutional forms.

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5. When this authoritative discernment has been exercised its reception by the whole Church (sometimes a long process) will show whether the development in question is authentically of the Spirit and in faithfulness to the apostolic tradition.

← *emphasize more = reception = basic authority.*

Conclusion:

The fuller appropriation of these principles (which are supported by the Final Report and Vatican II) by both of our traditions will help us to recognise how much we have in common in the forms that have evolved in each Communion and thus the possibilities of the recognition of an identity of theological intention and the sufficiency of these forms; to provide a mutually acceptable ecclesiology from which we may both learn and both reform our existing structures; to identify the precise nature of the problems still to be resolved; and to provide a context within which we can seek their solution together.

*Common  
Tongues*