

# **An Episcopal Church Orientation**

## **An Episcopal Church Orientation**

The purpose of this document is to present my understanding of the Episcopal Church. It will cover a little of the confidence, character and vision or motivation of the Episcopal Church. Hopefully, it will help people understand why we do things the way we do. Our services are designed for maximum participation in fresh scriptural corporate worship. However, this flexibility and participation requires orientation to the Book of Common Prayer, where scripture is ordered for common worship. Hopefully, with an orientation to this strategy and its Book of Common Prayer you will be encouraged to experience the Body of Christ in our services.

### ***Unity***

The main purpose of the Episcopal Church (from its beginning according to its founders who were more than half of the founders of the United States) is to unify the Church. For example: the idea of high and low church is an expression of this idea of unity, protestant and catholic unity. Here is how they improved the Anglican call to unity.

### ***Order***

The idea of the Episcopal founders was just enough order for each individual to be able to participate in common (corporate) worship. Team work requires some order. Knowing the order, we can actively participate in the church service. In other words, knowing the strategy of the service for that day, the: who, what, where, why and when of that days service. Knowing the strategy, each person can even have a speaking part in the worship. Concerning speaking, the language would always be the local language; but, knowing the service, visitors from any part of the world can sing along in their own language. Or, they may prefer to speak along, because knowing the strategic order also allows the service to be either sung or spoken.

### ***Freedom***

Yes, the same people who believed in separation of Church and State also believed the constitution of the Episcopal Church (in many ways a copy of the US Constitution) defined the freedom required for people around the world to worship God in unity. But, this community (team work), requires order. Scripture teaches that even freedom in the spirit is based on order.

### ***Limited Government***

Yes, the same people who believed every person was created equal with something to give, also believed to be that equal person, every person had to be free from government. Order is required, but it had to be limited. Therefore, they protected at the same time that freedom from government for both state and church. If anything, Church and State were separated to protect the individual in the Church from the State.

# **An Episcopal Church Orientation**

## **Current Episcopal Government and Wisdom**

Anyone who fears God, knows and loves his Law, stands against sins against God, does not hide their eyes from those sins, and knows the current leadership of the Episcopal Church must wonder how this organization can be the answer. The answer is Wisdom.

### **Wisdom**

With all the current Episcopal governmental problems, can it still be called to unify the church? It may seem almost comical that this church will be used to create a perfect church. For example: the Episcopal Church is currently led by people supporting the right for people to discover their sexual identity. Is there another sin that carries the death penalty for just hiding the eyes and staying neutral? Is it possible to be wise, or to fear God and stay neutral about homosexuality? Scripture says sodomy (homosexuality) is extremely contagious. It quickly infects everyone (even children). Because it is worse than leprosy that can be contained by quarantine and for the love of human life itself, it carries the death penalty. It is so contagious that a loving forgiving God condemns to death even those who just support that right, the right for people to discover their sexual identity. Tattoos are another example of hiding the eyes. Tattoos are against the Law. In fact they violate the first of the Ten Commandments. We are made in the image of God and they desecrate that image which is idolatry. Not even to honor our father or mother are we to desecrate our bodies with tattoos. It is stupid to curse yourself when you can just as easily bless yourself. This article on Wisdom says who should say something and what to do if they don't. Because of the blessings and curses, it is foolish or stupid to "hide the eyes". The Episcopal Church is molded by scripture, and according to scripture, "hiding the eyes" is serious. How can this church become that church? How can we become that church used to create a perfect church? What process or network of processes will cause such a change? The answer is the process of wisdom. The answer to all our questions is wisdom. The Episcopal Church is called to unify the Church, and its wisdom will create a perfect church.

### ***The Beginning of Wisdom – The Fear of God***

We know the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God. Our scriptures teach us the meaning of everything (including faith and salvation) is based on that fear. Why is God to be feared? What does he control? What has he done? Plus, what has he not done or controlled? The solutions to all our governmental problems come from the source of wisdom. For example: remember what the Bible says about the process of wisdom for the wife with the horrible husband. The wife with the horrible husband must fear God. By the way, we can view any authority problem using this process. God controls authority. God controls her authority, her husband. So, her only hope is through her fear of God. She has influence with God, but not through her husband. In other words, she is not going to be successful arguing with her husband. For example: it will not help her to tell him that his sodomy is wrong. In fact, the effect of that type of argument is the answer to what God does not control: rebellion. Wisdom teaches us the wife with the horrible husband is in perfect position to change the world. In fact, she is at the bottom, and the person at the bottom (under all authority) has the most

## **An Episcopal Church Orientation**

influence. Whenever we disagree with authority, we can apply this wisdom. With this wisdom, the same government that produced this current mess will also be the order for a perfect church. There is more to the fear of God like: he created everything, and it was a complete creation.

### ***The Fear of God – Chicken or Egg***

The chicken is the answer to the question: “What comes first the chicken or the egg?” In fact he was a very smart chicken. Like the chicken, man was created complete. The fear of God includes our understanding that God created everything in short order. It did not take him very long and it was a complete. Man was complete and all of creation was complete. Science cannot go back in time, but it can show how the parts of creation are interdependent and complete.

### ***The Fear of God – Indiana Jones***

Indiana Jones (and the likes of him) discovered man did not have to figure out advanced math on his own. In fact, Adam was so smart his followers needed hundreds of years to learn from him what he knew at his completion. In 1000 years they each learned from him what they had to know about God and his creation, and our wisdom comes from what Adam told Methuselah who told Noah who told Abraham who told us through that history. It was most likely written history because Indiana discovered Abraham could read and write.

### ***The Fear of God – King Tut***

My grandfather was of a generation that questioned the Biblical account. Mark Twain jokes about the desolation of the land of milk and honey: nobody there. Then Indiana Jones comes along, Israel comes along, King Tut comes along, pictures from outer space, come along. From these we know early man was smarter, Abraham could read and write, we found Joseph’s grain silos in the oldest pyramids, and pictures from outer space show the actual Red Sea crossing to be to Median (Saudi Arabia), just like the Bible said. My grandfather had an excuse, but as we look around from our viewpoint in time we no longer have an excuse to question Biblical history.

### **The Fear of God – The Wisdom of Giving**

From the fear of God, the process of wisdom continues with giving. Giving starts after the tithe. Tithes are ten percent. Tithes are his portion. If we do not tithe, we rob from him. Whatever we give, we will receive more than we give. Giving does not count unless it comes from our calling. It must be a respected offering. God wants to help us find that respect. If we submit our heart, he will tell us through our heart what to do. Then, God will support our respected giving. To do our calling, God will supply what we need, in abundance. We can’t lose with him on our side, so giving produces prosperity. Giving produces prosperity. This is the one area God says we can test him. Testing him by giving is the quickest way to find measurable confidence in a personal word from God. Prosperity is attractive. The Bible calls that attraction “the shining city on a hill”. Prosperity will attract people to the Word of God. People attracted to

## An Episcopal Church Orientation

our prosperity will be attracted to its source, our wisdom. So, that means more new wives in submission to horrible husbands, and God can work with that.

### The Book of Common Prayer and History

Everything we need (or links to everything we need) to be the wife of the horrible husband is found in the Book of Common Prayer. The [first sentence in the preface](#) to the original Book of Common Prayer is saved in the current book historical documents. It says the book's purpose is for everyone to read or hear the whole Bible each year. Because music helps us retain what we hear, from the beginning that reading or hearing was enhanced with music. That one book links us to the whole Bible and the most practical way to understand the Bible. The most practical way is through regular common prayer which includes: salvation, baptism, communion, praise, worship, thanksgiving and daily Bible reading. That one book links us to the vision given to us by our founders and the history of believers before them. Most of the prayers are scriptural with references attached. They come from East and West and from the Jewish tradition before Christ. A few are statements of the Church like creeds that summarize Church understanding, and through that understanding one will see the history of the Church in understanding the Bible. History is important. All our confidence and understanding comes from history. It is "His Story". Here is a link to an [outline of the Book of Common Prayer](#) that links to The Book of Common Prayer.

### Summary: Episcopal Church Orientation

The purpose of this document is to present my understanding of the Episcopal Church. It will cover a little of the confidence, character and vision or motivation of the Episcopal Church. Hopefully, it will help people understand why we do things the way we do. Our services are designed for maximum participation in fresh scriptural corporate worship. However, this flexibility and participation requires orientation to the Book of Common Prayer, where scripture is ordered for common worship. Hopefully, with an orientation to this strategy and its Book of Common Prayer you will be encouraged to experience the Body of Christ in our services.