

## Anglican/Episcopal

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by Bill Crews

The "Protestant Episcopal Church" is now the name of "The Self-Governing Branch" of the Anglican Church ( or Church of England). For the first century and a half of its existence in America it was known as the Church of England and was considered as part of the Anglican Church, which was the state religion of England. Primarily as a result of the American Revolution against England the Anglican Church in America became self-governing; in 1783 the name "Protestant Episcopal Church" was adopted. In 1789 a constitution was adopted in Philadelphia, and the "Book of Common Prayer" of the Anglican Church was Revised for use in America. Substantially the Episcopal Church is identical with the Anglican Church in doctrine, worship and practice.

Now let us give our attention to the Anglican Church. Originally the Anglican Church was an integral part of the Roman Catholic Church. In England, as in many nations today, Roman Catholicism was the religion of the state, and the state was the protector ( and often servant) of the church. Well, King Henry VIII (who ruled from 1509 to 1547) was married to Catherine of Aragon (Spain); he wanted to divorce Catherine and marry young Anne Boleyn. Such permission had to come from the Pope ( Clement VII), who was head of the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world. But the Pope thought too much of the power of Charles V, King of Spain and uncle of Catherine. The divorce was refused, and, as a result, Henry VIII, using his power as king, severed the Catholic Church in England from the Papal authority. An act of the English Parliament made it official and also made the King head of the New Anglican Church. During the reign of Edward VI, son of Henry VIII, the Common Prayer Book and the Forty-Two Articles of Religion were adopted as the creed of the church. From the circumstances of its origin one can readily see why, in spite of its breaking away from Roman Catholicism, the Anglican Church closely parallels Catholicism in many particulars. This is also true of the Episcopal Church. There is a vast difference between the church of the New Testament, the church that Jesus built, and the churches of human origin. For the most part Episcopal priests are extreme liberals. The Ex-Episcopal Bishop of San Francisco, James A. Pike (now deceased), called the Bible account of the garden of Eden a "myth" and described the Virgin Birth of Jesus as a "myth." In February of 1961 he said of the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden, "Yet I do not know a single member of the Anglican Communion — Bishop, Presbyter, Deacon or Layman — who believes this story literally."

### Anglican Liberalism

The following will give you some idea how liberal are the leaders in many Episcopal and Anglican Churches:

"We should make prostitution a legal business and then we would be able to put a tax on it." "I suggest we will never stamp out prostitution. Why not let the profession regulate itself? Put prostitution on the free enterprise system." — **From a letter by Robert W. Cromey, Vicar of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, San Francisco.**

The wife of Robert Hedges, rector of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Des Moines, Iowa, filled an order from a local lounge owner for four paintings, two of the portraits of nude women. So realistic were the nudes that Vice detectives ordered them taken down. — **AP News release of May 5, 1967.**

The suffragan Bishop of Woolwich, England, Dr. John A. T. Robinson, wrote a book called, "Honest To God." An AP News release from London dated March 27, 1963 says, "The Bishop calls on Christians to stop thinking of God as being 'up there' or 'out there' or anywhere. He says they must

**continued on page 332803**

332802