

The 39 Articles of Religion are a foundational document outlining the beliefs of the Anglican Communion. They were established in 1563 and finalised in 1571, forming a key part of Anglican doctrine.

Below is a summary of each of the 39 Articles:

1. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

Belief in one God, existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. Of the Word, or Son of God, which was made very Man

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully divine and fully human.

3. Of the going down of Christ into Hell

Christ descended to the dead and preached to the spirits there after His crucifixion.

4. Of the Resurrection of Christ

Christ rose bodily from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion.

5. Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Spirit is fully God, proceeding from the Father and the Son.

6. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation The Bible contains all things necessary for salvation, and nothing outside it is required for faith.

7. Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is still relevant, though Christians are not bound by its ceremonial laws.

8. Of the Three Creeds

The Nicene, Athanasian, and Apostles' Creeds are sufficient declarations of Christian faith.

9. Of Original or Birth-Sin

Humanity is tainted by original sin, inherited from Adam, and naturally inclined toward evil.

10. Of Free-Will

Humans cannot turn to God on their own; God's grace is necessary for salvation.

11. Of the Justification of Man

We are justified by faith alone, not by works.

12. Of Good Works

Good works are a natural fruit of faith, but they do not earn salvation.

13. Of Works before Justification

Works done before justification, though commendable, do not contribute to salvation.

14. Of Works of Supererogation

The idea that one can do more than is required by God's commandments is rejected.

15. Of Christ alone without Sin

Only Christ was without sin; all others are fallen.

16. Of Sin after Baptism

Sin committed after baptism can be forgiven; repentance is necessary.

17. Of Predestination and Election

God has predestined some to life and others to death, but this should not cause despair.

18. Of obtaining eternal Salvation only by the Name of Christ

Salvation is through Christ alone; no one can be saved except through Him.

19. Of the Church

The visible Church consists of all who profess the Gospel and administer the sacraments.

20. Of the Authority of the Church

The Church has authority to decree rites and ceremonies, but cannot ordain anything contrary to Scripture.

21. Of the Authority of General Councils

General councils can err and are not infallible; they must be tested against Scripture.

22. Of Purgatory

The doctrine of purgatory, as taught by the Roman Catholic Church, is rejected.

23. Of Ministering in the Congregation

Only those lawfully called and ordained should preach or administer the sacraments.

24. Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People understandeth

Worship services must be conducted in a language understood by the people.

25. Of the Sacraments

Christ ordained two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

26. Of the Unworthiness of the Ministers, which hinders not the effect of the Sacrament

The validity of the sacraments is not dependent on the moral character of the minister.

27. Of Baptism

Baptism is a sign of regeneration and should be administered to all, including infants.

28. Of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a sign of Christ's sacrifice, not a re-sacrifice, and His body and blood are spiritually present.

29. Of the Wicked which eat not the Body of Christ in the use of the Lord's Supper

Those who partake in the Lord's Supper unworthily do not receive Christ.

30. Of both Kinds

Both the bread and wine should be offered to all communicants.

31. Of the one Oblation of Christ finished upon the Cross

Christ's sacrifice on the cross was once for all, and it is sufficient for the sins of the world.

32. Of the Marriage of Priests

Clergy are free to marry or remain single.

33. Of Excommunicate Persons, how they are to be avoided

Those lawfully excommunicated by the Church should be shunned until they repent.

34. Of the Traditions of the Church

Church traditions and ceremonies may vary as long as they do not contradict Scripture.

35. Of the Homilies

The Homilies, a set of sermons written to guide Christian living, are a sound exposition of doctrine.

36. Of Consecration of Bishops and Ministers

The ordination rites of the Church of England are valid.

37. Of the Civil Magistrates

Christians must obey civil authorities, but the Church has its own spiritual jurisdiction.

38. Of Christian Men's Goods, which are not common

Private property is lawful, and Christians should not be forced to share their goods.

39. Of a Christian Man's Oath

Christians may take lawful oaths, as long as they are truthful and not frivolous.