

# Intro to Anglicanism

## *Part III: Sacramental Worldview*

**Discussion:** What is a worldview?

### TOWARD A SACRAMENTAL WORLDVIEW

A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. God gives us the sign as a means whereby we receive that grace, and as a tangible assurance that we do in fact receive it. (To Be a Christian, Q. 102)

**Discussion:** If that is the definition of a sacrament, what could we mean by a “sacramental worldview”?

How do we get there?

- God is Creator but not detached from creation
  - He is found in the Garden (Genesis 2).
  - He uses the burning bush to reveal his presence to Moses (Exodus 3).
  - He parts the Red Sea and is seen in a pillar of clouds and fire (Exodus 13-14).
- The Incarnation
  - The Son of God became man in Jesus Christ. He took our humanity upon himself, thereby uniting himself not only with all humanity, but, in a way, with all creation as well.
  - Jesus is still Incarnate in his earthly body!
- Baptism is participating in the life of Christ
  - Being in Christ through baptism is the deepest reality of being a Christian. I am “in Christ” more than I am in this room.
    - “God is closer to ourselves than our innermost being.” -Augustine
  - We participate in God’s saving actions in this world through our baptism. We, the Church, become the body of Christ here on earth. We mediate God’s presence.

Definition: Recognizes that God communicates himself to us through his material created world and that the material can make present and manifest the spiritual, and these are not in competition with each other. But rather they are in deep Communion with them.

In Summary: The sacramental worldview...

1. Recognizes that God always works through his creation
  - a. The material world is given a power and dignity that no other worldview can supply.
2. Means seeing the world and its people as God sees them, through the eyes of Jesus
3. Is centered around participation in the life of God

## THE OBSTACLE OF MODERNISM

**Origin:** Began in the Enlightenment with Rene Descartes and Immanuel Kant. They sought to develop a system of thought that depends solely on the human mind without any reference to the outside world. Truth was no longer to be found through the world but determined solely by human reason.

This elevates humans to the apex of authority. Modernism believed it could rescue civilization from Christianity (which is nothing more than superstition) by stripping away all sources of authority except that of humans. Scripture, Tradition, and creation itself could no longer reveal God. Authority and truth is not something to be discovered, but something that emerges out of the self.

### Effects of Modernism

- Theological Shift: Jesus' moral and ethical teachings were emphasized while theological realities such as Virgin Birth and bodily Resurrection were de-emphasized.
- Disenchantment of Creation:
  - Spiritual and Material Relationship is severed:
    - The spiritual and the material cannot interact with each other. In fact, they are incompatible with each other.
  - Mediation:
    - Creation cannot display and communicate God. The Incarnation is denied. Jesus cannot be God.
    - Man cannot reflect the Imago Dei