

Articles of Religion
Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America

The Articles of Religion have gone through a series of development. The 1789 Book of Common Prayer has a version that was edited and clarified in 1801 which is printed in the 1929 and 1977 Book of Common Prayer. The content of articles of these versions have many similarities. The table below shows the *rough* correspondence.

1789	1801	1789	1801
1	1		21
1	2		22
1	3	14	23
1	4		24
1	5	15	25
2	6		26
3	7	16	27
4	8	17	28
5	9		29
6	10		30
7	11	18	31
8	12		32
	13		33
	14		34
9	15		35
10	16	19	36
17	17		37
12	18		38
13	19	20	39
13	20		

The Articles of Religion of 1801 appears to primarily be aimed of rejecting specific points of faith and practice today associated with the Roman Catholic Church, and also Calvinism.

Articles were modified to clarify ideas and to exclude heresies.

I do not understand why Athanasius' Creed was excluded from Article VIII. This creed is included in the 1977 Book of Common Prayer, pages 864-865.

In the culture wars of today, the Articles of Religion may be of some use as a standard of faith for determining orthodoxy of faith. These surely would have excluded John Spong.

Article IX, "Of Original or Birth-Sin", identifies concupiscence and lust as having the nature of sin. No other sins are explicitly addressed. It is a strength of the Articles of Religion that they concentrate on the big issues of faith, and do not get diluted by details.

Article XIX, “Of the Church”, explains that churches have erred in the past, but does not state the nature of the errors.

Article XX, “Of the Authority of the Church”, says the church cannot ordain any thing that is contrary to God’s Word written, nor expound one place of Scripture in a way repugnant to another place in Scripture.

Article XXXV, “Of the Homilies”, is annotated as being held without effect until the homilies are edited. These now exist in electronic form and are available for editing easily.