

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Why so many different kinds of Baptist?

'A Brief History'
(Acts 11:26)

Intro: When we consider the number of religions and denominations that exist in the world today, it is no wonder that people get confused. And this includes different kinds of Baptist as well. This is about as brief an insight as one can get on this subject without spending several or more weeks on the subject of 'What constitutes true Baptist distinctives.' And we should at some point tackle this subject seeing that Calvinism or 'Reformed Theology' is experiencing a resurgence. While it may seem that we as Independent Baptist have similarities with the Reformed Baptist, there are important differences, enough to not meld with the Calvinist.

I. Baptist overall.

A. Baptist are the only body of Believers who are able to _____ themselves and their roots back to the ministry of Jesus Christ, and the church which Jesus started in _____.

Matthew 16:13 – 20.

1. This text is important because it _____ that the subject in this whole discourse is the person of Jesus Christ and not Peter.
2. Peter _____ concerning what he knows to be true about Christ – **verse 16**.
3. Jesus _____ the accuracy of Peter's rock-solid testimony – **verse 17**.
4. Then in **verse 18**, Jesus states that _____ will build His church on Peter's testimony concerning who Jesus the Christ is, the Son of God.
5. There is in **verse 18** two important things to note.
 - a. 'Peter' which in the Greek is [Pet'ros] meaning a _____ or _____.
 - b. 'rock' which in the Greek is [pet' ra] meaning a rock, cliff or ledge.
 - c. Certainly the use of the word [pet' ra] is more substantial than just a stone.
 - d. And it would take more than a stone to carry the weight, (metaphorically) considering what the church (ecclesia) would face over the centuries until Jesus comes again.

B. Reminding ourselves that we were not always called or labeled as Baptist, nor are all Baptist worthy of the name.

1. The earliest members of the ecclesia were the _____ of Jesus Christ.

- a. When the persecution of these Believers increased, they _____ Jerusalem, many chose, by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to begin churches made up of individuals responding to the Gospel message concerning Christ.
- b. From this _____ many churches began to spring-up in various countries.
- c. They developed names to _____ their unusual views of the Scriptures.
 - (1). In _____ they called themselves the “Hussites because they followed John Huss who would send his preacher boys to preach on the corners and to preach to everything and anything that moved.
 - (2). In Northern _____ they were known as the “Waldenses because they lived in secluded valleys called “Walds.” They were followers of a fella by the name of Waldo.
 - (3). In _____ they were known as “Hugeuenots”, and they were massacred by the hundreds because they dared to disagree with the Roman Catholic church.
 - (4). In _____, they were called “Anabaptist” because of their insistence on re-baptizing anyone who had never been saved when initially baptized. The preface “ana” eventually was dropped and became known as “Baptist”. (Ana – meaning again.)

C. While their names were often times different, there was one _____ denominator that they shared down throughout the centuries is to be found in their beliefs known as Baptist distinctives.

1. They believed baptism was believers ____ and baptism by immersion. **(Acts 8:36 – 39)**
2. They believed the Bible was the _____ authority in all matters of life & faith. **(II Timothy 3:16; Romans 13:1; Acts 5:29; II John 1:9; are but a few)**
3. They believed in the _____ of the Believer, meaning every believer has access to God with prayers, supplication and answers accordingly. **(Hebrews 4:16.)**
4. They believed the church was only given two _____ – baptism & Lord’s supper. **(Romans 6:4; Acts 16:24 – 34; I Corinthians 11:23 – 32)**
5. They believed the church possessed only two Scriptural _____, the Pastorate & Deacons.
 - a. Pastors – **I Timothy 3:1 – 7; Ephesians 4:11 & I Peter 5:1 – 5.**
 - b. Deacons – **Acts 6:1 – 7 & I Timothy 3:8 – 13.**
6. They believed in _____ of church and state, meaning the government was not to control the church nor establish a “sate church” such as Catholicism did in Europe.
7. They believed in soul-liberty which is the _____ of the Holy Spirit to rule as He pleases in the life of each believer. **(John 16:7 – 15 & Ephesians 4”30)**

8. They believed in the independence of _____ congregation and accepted that Jesus Christ alone is the head of that church. **(Colossians 2:8 – 10)**

D. Over the years folks have maintained the name of Baptist, but in practice they have compromised on some of the distinctives.

1. While the Waldenses have endured years of persecution at the hands of the Pope, the Waldenses began to _____ biblical baptism for believers only, and began to practice infant baptism.

2. Many Baptists in America also adopted a higher-archy idea of denominational _____.

a. The Southern Baptist, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lutherans, Methodist to name a few.

b. Though they say they believe in the autonomy of the local church, they nonetheless care a higher degree of influence & sometimes outright control.

3. There is a loss of local control or autonomy in which independence is lost.

4. In a convention there is the appointment of missionaries and or projects, schools & colleges which are chosen for support by them rather than the local church.

(Ephesians 4:11) They practice a co-operative Program or pooling of money.

5. Typically in a convention church only about ten cents on the dollar actually makes it to the mission field due to administrative cost. In the local church, typically one hundred percent makes it to the mission files.