

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Why isn't eternal security listed as a Baptist distinctive?

**Distinguishing Baptist Distinctives. – Part IV  
(Hebrews 13:5b)**

**Intro:** As we continue in this particular lesson series, let's take a quick review of the material we have covered to this point: The question remains the same,

Using the word 'Baptist' for this acrostic,

1. 'B' - stating that the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ authority in all matters of life and faith.
2. 'A' – Stating the \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church rather than denominational organizations.
3. 'P' – Stating the \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer,
4. 'T' – Only \_\_\_\_\_ ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
5. 'I' – The individual \_\_\_\_\_ of the Believer.
6. 'S' – Only a \_\_\_\_\_ membership in the local church (and in the family of God.)
7. 'T' – Only two biblically recognized \_\_\_\_\_ in the local church, Pastor and Deacon.
8. 'S' – Separation of church and the state.

This week we finish this mini-series with #8 and our conclusion.

**8. 'S' – Separation of church and state. While there is no direct statement concerning the separation of the church from the state, it does have much to say that suggest that God intended for nations and people to be governed by a theocracy where God is head of state and men of God called to oversee God's laws.**

- A. Israel in its \_\_\_\_\_ form was meant to be a theocratic form of government –
  1. Originally, they were a \_\_\_\_\_ – living under God's laws – **Leviticus 20:26.**
  2. In the book of Judges we see them living in \_\_\_\_\_ – **Judges 17:6 & 21:5.**
  3. By the time of Samuel they chose to become a \_\_\_\_\_ – **I Samuel 8:4- 20.**
- B. As history was in the making, we find that Israel became ruled over by other countries, whether it was Syria, Babylon, Philistines and others and eventually by Greece, Rome just to name a few and eventually becoming a nation once again on May 14, 1948.
- C. Throughout the Middle-ages, \_\_\_\_\_ was the dominate, religious authority in most of all

of Europe and Mediterranean Sea area.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the head and he ruled both spiritually and politically.
2. He ruled in and over the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and demanded everyone become Roman Catholic and pay full allegiances to Rome and himself.
3. Along come Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic himself, then one day he declares salvation is by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in God. (**Ephesians 2:8 & 9**)
4. He no longer likes the idea of Rome \_\_\_\_\_ over his native Germany and separated from Rome.
5. While he no longer wants Germany to have Roman Catholicism as Germany's official state religion, he has no problem with \_\_\_\_\_ becoming the official state religion.
6. While he was a hero of the reformation, he also, along with the Roman Catholic church, they had no problem \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist (Anabaptist, Waldensians, Albigensians)
7. William Rogers, founder of the Providence of Rhode Island was the first of his kind that believed in \_\_\_\_\_ and the right to believe what one's conscience dictated they should believe, and that no one should be forced to accept another's religious beliefs.
8. The American colonies have won their freedom from England and English rule whether political or religiously and the Constitution is drawn up.
9. There is no clause specifically stating a separating church and state. However it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote, **"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties."**<sup>[1]</sup>

D. So, now to answer the question which we began with,

1. The belief we hold about the 'rapture' and the 'Trinity' are not words used in the Bible, however, we know these doctrines are taught by the Bible, **I Cor. 15:51 – 58 & I Thessalonians 4:13 – 18; then I John 5:17 & Matthew 3:15 – 17.**

2. The main purpose for identifying the Baptist distinctives through the ages is to not list all the \_\_\_\_\_ of Baptists, rather it is to identify those particular doctrines that have historically been the point of controversy that led to \_\_\_\_\_ and martyrdom.
3. Martyr's, were not burned at the stake or tortured because they believed in the eternal security of the Believer, rather, because they \_\_\_\_\_ to confess their sins to the local priest, because they refused to baptize infants, and refused membership to individuals not saved.
4. So, Baptist distinctives are best seen, not as a Baptist Creed listing our beliefs, but as a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ column, giving the cause of the death of thousands upon thousands of Believers.
5. Simply put, eternal security is omitted from the list of distinctives, not because it isn't an important doctrine, but that it is not a \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine.