

# WHY A BAPTIST?

Is there a difference?

# Why a Baptist?

## B A P T I S T S

### BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

Baptists use only (and all of) the Bible as our authority for faith and practice. All others use dogmas, decrees, traditions, extra-biblical revelations and literature.

*Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

*See also: Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:2-8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 John 5:9-11, & Isaiah 8:20.*

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## AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Christ is the Head of every true local assembly, the Holy Spirit is our Administrator, the Bible is our only rule book. We're not subject to any outside authority or influence.

**Independent of man, Dependent on Christ!**

*See 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:1-7*

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## **PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS**

Every born-again child of God can approach the Heavenly Father on the merits of Jesus the Son alone. As believers, we do not need any kind of earthly priest or other heavenly mediator to gain access to our Father.

*1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

*See also: Hebrews 4:16 & 1 Peter 2:9-10*

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## TWO ORDINANCES

**Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**. Both are symbolic so they cannot be used to find grace from God. These ordinances are for only those who are saved and can only be performed legitimately by the local Baptist church.

*See Acts 2:41-42, Romans 6:4-5 & 1 Corinthians 11:23-30*

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## INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY

Every individual has the liberty to worship whom he chooses. For salvation, God deals with individuals, not families, denominations, etc.

*Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

*See also: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, John 8:36, Acts 5:29, 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 & John 14:15.*

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## SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE

The government has no place in the administration of the local church and visa-versa. Both institutions are used by God, but in separate and individual ways.

*Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*

*John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

**Our Business is Souls!**

*See Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8*

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## TWO CHURCH OFFICERS

**Pastors** and **Deacons**. The pastor is the bishop or overseer of the flock as the under-shepherd to Jesus the Great Shepherd. Deacons are appointed to church service as needed and are under pastoral authority. There are definite qualifications for both offices.

*See 1 Timothy 3:1-13*

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## SAVED MEMBERSHIP

To be a candidate for scriptural baptism and placement into the local church one must first be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit through the blood of the Lamb!

*Matthew 3:6-8 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

*See also: John 3:3-7, Ephesians 2:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galations 6:15 & Romans 8:9*

Why aren't you a...

**B A P T I S T ?**

Every concepts presented comes from the Bible. In other words, if one is saved and truly wants to obey the Bible, he must by default become a Baptist.

*John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

*1John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*