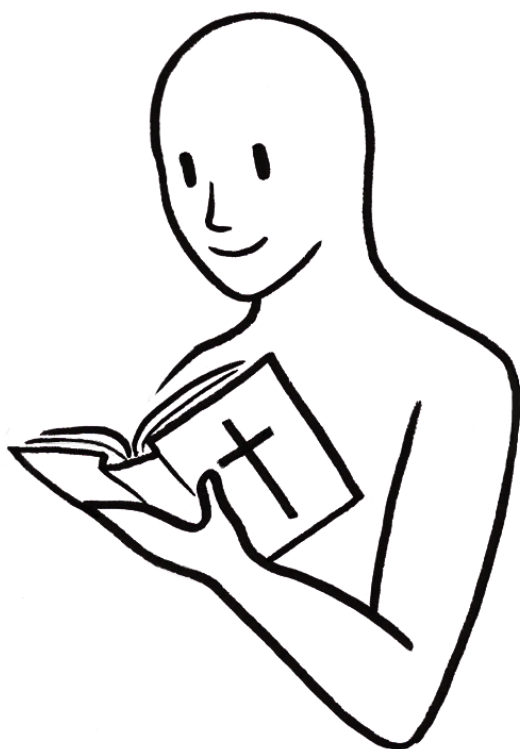


**What Do
Baptists
Believe?**



Being A Baptist _____

Who are Baptists and What Do They Believe?

This booklet describes the twelve key characteristics of a Baptist. These beliefs are not exclusive to Baptists, nor do they include everything Baptists believe. These are just twelve of the key characteristics of a Baptist.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1985 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Table of Contents

2 Beliefs

1. The Bible Is God's Word And Our Sole Authority
2. We Are Saved By God's Grace Alone

2 Ordinances

3. Baptism
4. The Lord's Supper, Sometimes Called "Communion."

2 Actions

5. Sharing God's Word
6. Teaching And Helping Others

2 Loves

7. Love The Lord
8. Love Your Neighbor

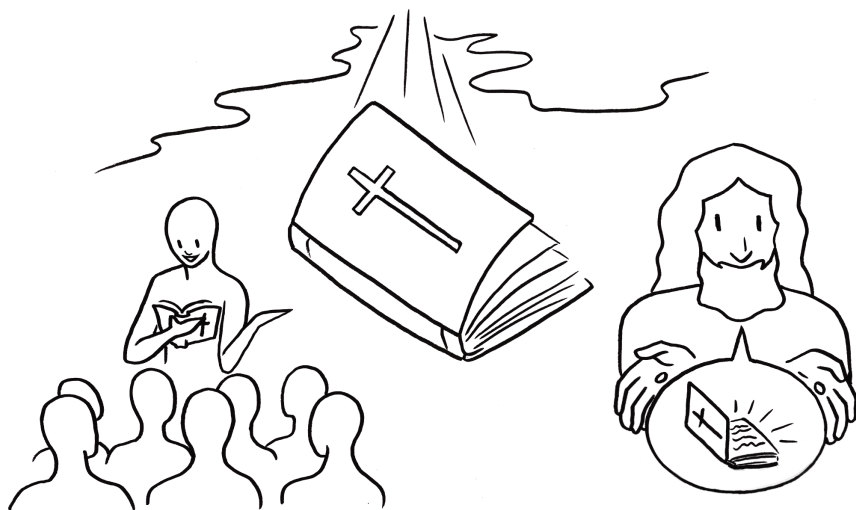
2 Parts of Our Spiritual Foundation

9. The Bible
10. Priesthood Of The Believers

2 Ways Of Independence

1. Churches Are Independent
2. The Church and State Are Separate

1 Beliefs



The Bible Is God's Word And Our Sole Authority

"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe." 1 Thessalonians 2:13

The Bible is complete. It is an bottomless well from which we may draw divine wisdom.

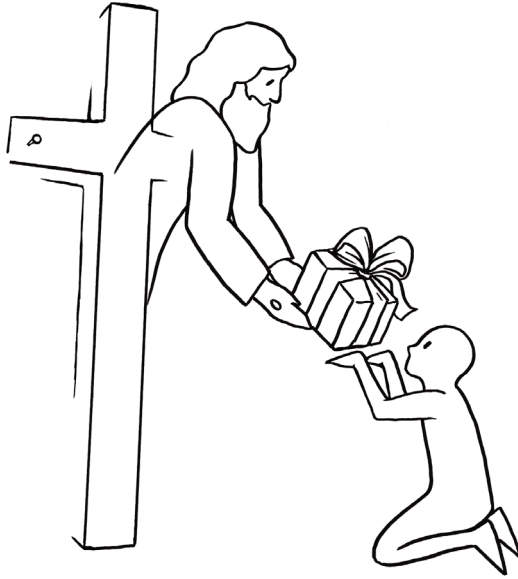
"All scripture is inspired by God, and profitable for teaching, for re-proof, for correction, for training in righteousness: so that the man of God may be adequate for every good work. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

God's Word is perfect, restoring the soul.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul." Psalm 19:7

Anything that is contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible is not true.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" John 14:6



We Are Saved By God's Grace Alone

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9

All people have broken God's law (sin) and deserve God's punishment in hell for eternity. But God (Jesus Christ) died on the cross paying the penalty we earned as law breakers. He purchased our salvation with His death and demonstrated through His resurrection that we will have life after death.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

A Baptist believes Jesus died to pay the penalty he owes and has turned away from disobeying God.

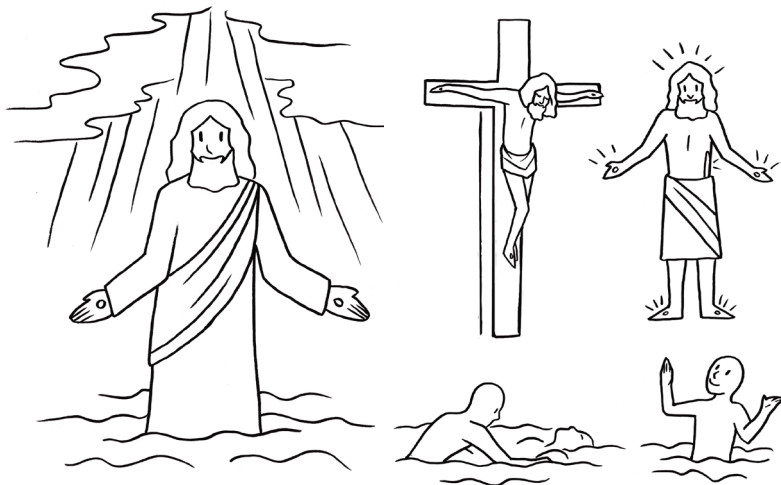
“Repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15

A Baptist recognizes there is nothing they can do to save themselves. We are dead in our sin and can only be made alive by Jesus Christ.

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy” Titus 3:5

3 Ordinances

Baptists believe the Bible teaches us to observe two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are not necessary for salvation, but are voluntarily performed in obedience to God's Word.



Baptism

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19

Baptism is a symbolic act that represents the salvation of an individual. Through baptism we publicly show our belief that, like Jesus, we have died and will rise from the dead.

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Baptism does not save us, but shows others that we have been born again in Christ.

“As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ ... and he baptized him.” Acts 8:36-38 (See Luke 23:39-43 It shows a man being saved without baptism)

A testimony of salvation is required before one can be baptized. Baptism is performed by immersion.



The Lord's Supper, Sometimes Called "Communion."

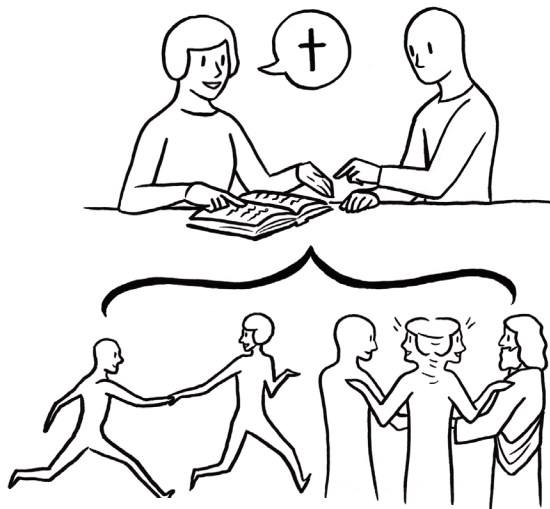
"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you, do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also after supper saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes'" 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord's Supper is the partaking of bread and grape juice. This is done in remembrance of Christ's broken body and the blood He shed on our behalf. The Lord's Supper is for believers only. It is a time to examine ourselves and should never be taken in an unworthy manner.

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep [are dead]." 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

5 Actions

Baptists believe they must do what the word of God says to do.
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” - Mark 12:31



Sharing God's Word

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19

A Baptist is one who believes in the command of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20) and has a deep commitment to sharing the gospel at home and in world missions.

“Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men [be fishers of men].” Luke 5:10

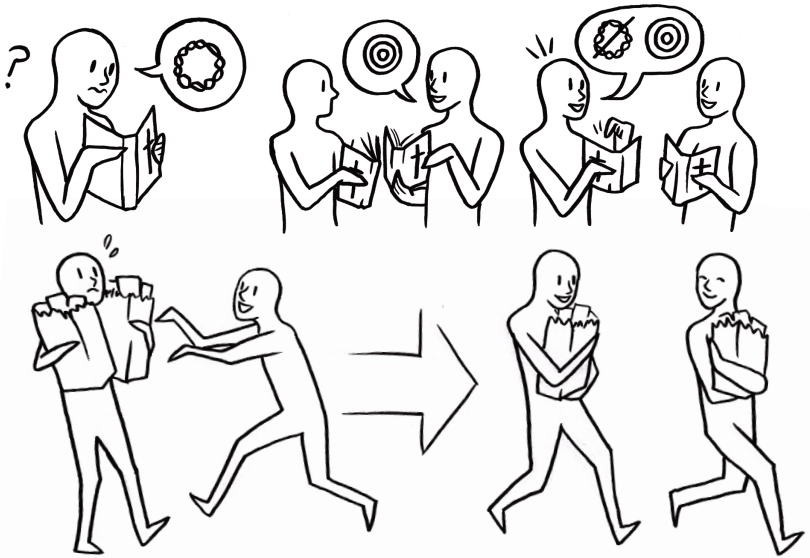
Baptists believe that every Christian is commanded by God to be a witness to the gospel message. There is no greater way to show love than by sharing with someone how they may have eternal life.

“You will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Every Christian should be ready to proclaim the gospel at any time.

“Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” Luke 24:46, 47

Actions 6



Teaching And Helping Others

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

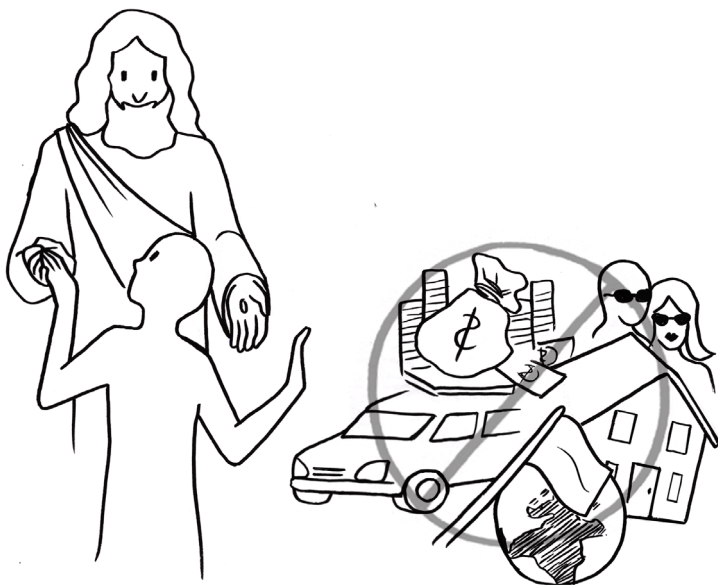
Baptists study the Bible and teach others. We help our Christian brothers and sisters to grow in their knowledge and understanding of scripture.

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.” 1 Corinthians 9:19

Baptists love and serve others who are in need, just as Christ did.

“All of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted and humble in spirit, not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.” 1 Peter 3:8,9

7 Loves



Love The Lord

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment.” Matthew 22:37, 38

For a Baptist Jesus Christ is Lord and master. All of our worship and service centers on Him.

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; so that He himself will come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18

We are purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. We love Him above all else. He owns us. We are willing slaves of God.

“Paul, a bond-servant [slave] of Christ Jesus...” Romans 1:1 (and Titus 1:1)

To love the Lord means to obey the Lord.

“If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15



Love Your Neighbor

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Baptists desire for others to see Jesus Christ through their lives. Love is an action word, not a feeling. Baptists love their Christian brothers and sisters through their actions.

“The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.” 1 John 2:9

Baptists, through their actions, love non-believers.

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Baptists, through their actions, love their enemies.

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Mathew 5:44

9 Parts of Our Spiritual Foundation



The Bible

“For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:21

The Bible is the word of God, written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

“All scripture is inspired by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness: so that the man of God may be adequate for every good work.” 2 Tim. 3:16-17

The Bible is the sole authority on faith and Christian living. It is the foundation of our lives and the foundation of our church.

The Holy Spirit “will guide you into all truth” John 16:13



Priesthood Of The Believers

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.” 1 Peter 2:9

That all believers are priests means that there is no need for someone to represent us before God.

“And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” Matthew 27:51

The veil that separated the Holy of Holies was torn destroyed when Christ died, giving us direct access to God. We can bring our petitions and prayers directly to God (Jesus Christ). And God may make His will known directly to us.

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5

11 Ways Of Independence _____



Churches Are Independent _____

Scripture does not establish a hierarchy of church government. Each local Baptist church is independent.

“Obey your leaders [local church pastor and elders] and submit to them,” Hebrews 13:12

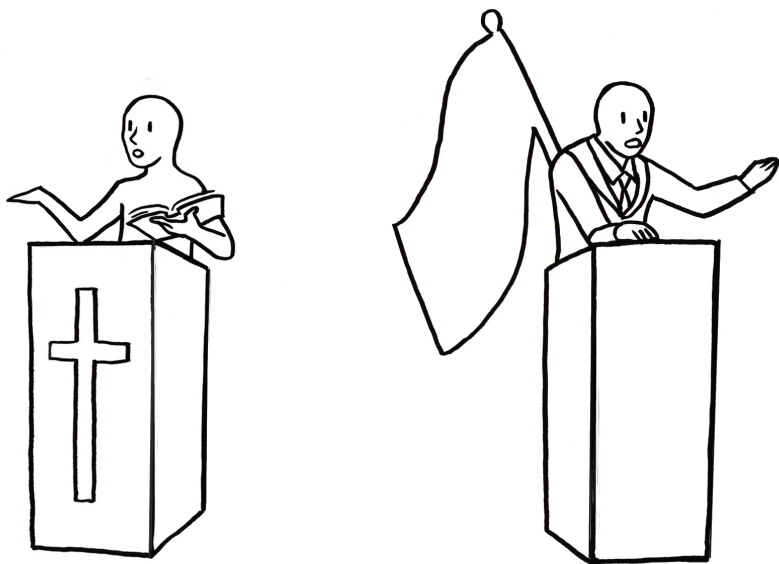
Each local church selects its own leaders.

“Therefore I exhort the elders among you... shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily according to the will of God;” 1 Peter 5:1,2 (See 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 for the qualifications for eldership)

Each local church governs itself. There is no overall “Baptist Church” that directs what the local churches should do.

“[Elders] Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which He purchases with His own bloods.” Acts 22:28

——— Ways Of Independence 12



——— The Church and State Are Separate

Baptists believe that the church and government are not to mix their authority. Baptists do not attempted to force their beliefs on anyone through any form of government.

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’ Acts 5:29

Baptists believe that all governments are given to us by God and are to be obeyed in all ways that do not conflict with scripture.

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” Romans 13:1,2

Move To Assurance

© 2011 Move To Assurance
P.O. Box 974
Tualatin, OR 97062 USA
www.MoveToAssurance.org
All Rights Reserved