

First Baptist Church; Who We Are

1 Peter 3:15

Baptist Distinctives

I. B _____

A. Definition:

1. Baptists believe the Bible is the _____ in all matters of _____ and _____.
2. No human _____ or _____ of any church group can override the Bible. Even creeds and confessions of faith which attempt to articulate the theology of Scriptures do not carry Scripture's inherent authority.

B. Scriptures

II Timothy 3:15-16; I Thessalonians 2:13

II. A _____

A. Definition:

1. The local church is an _____ body accountable to the _____, the head of the church.
2. All _____ for governing the local church resides within the local church itself. Thus the church is autonomous (self-governing).
3. No _____ hierarchy outside the local church may _____ a church's beliefs or practices.

B. Scriptures

Colossians 1:18; Matthew 18:15-17

III. P _____

A. Definition:

1. Baptists believe _____ today is a priest of God and may enter into His presence in prayer directly through our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. No other _____ is needed between God and man.
2. We all have _____ to God whether we are a preacher or not.

B. Scriptures

I Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6; I Timothy 2:5

IV. T _____

A. The local church should practice two ordinances:

1. _____ by immersion in water, identifying the individual with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
2. _____: (communion): commemorating His death for our sins.

B. Scriptures

Matthew 28:19, 20; I Corinthians 11:23-32

V. I _____

A. Definition

1. Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the _____ what he believes is right in the religious realm. No one should be _____ to agree with _____ against his will.
2. Baptists have always opposed religious _____. However, this liberty does not exempt one from _____ to the Word of God or from _____ to God Himself.

- B. Scriptures
Romans 14:5, 12

VI. S _____,

A. Definition

1. Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a _____ in Christ and have _____ themselves with Him in believers' baptism.
2. When the members of a local church are believers, a oneness in Christ exists, and the members can endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

B. Scriptures

Acts 2:41-42; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:3

VII. T _____

A. The Bible mandates only two offices in the church:

1. _____: The three Biblical terms *pastor*, *elder* and *bishop*, or *overseer*, all refer to the same office.
2. _____: The two offices of pastor and deacon exist _____ the local church, not as a hierarchy _____ or over the local church.

B. Scriptures

I Timothy 3:1-13; Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1-6