

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
Time Tested Doctrine
4/29/07

Introduction

Romans 16:16-18 (16) Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you. (17) Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (18) For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

I Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

George W. Truett once said, "Give me a man with an open Bible, an open mind, and an open heart, and I tell you he will become a Baptist." Nevertheless, some of the sorriest people in the world are or were Baptists, recently including Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. Some of the godliest and most noble people are not nor were Baptists, like D.L. Moody, Fanny Crosby, Thomas Boston, Florence Nightingale, Stonewall Jackson, and George Whitefield. Not all modern day Baptists are contending for their faith, they are pretending. Many Protestants share precious truths with Baptists that we will cover tonight. These truths are shared in ...

I. In Theology

A. Baptists are Trinitarian, three persons = one essence, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

B. All three divine persons are equal in all attributes and yet unique in relationship. Father sends the Son. Son sends the Holy Spirit **Matthew 28:18-20**.

C. Faulty conclusions in this area are extremely dangerous. Unitarians, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and all cults err here. Even shallow, interdenominational churches teach a small God, not the sovereign God that rules the universe and all the affairs of men.

D. Baptists all agree on this along with many Protestants. So where is the Baptist distinctive?

II. In Anthropology

A. **Romans 5:12** shows that sin and death are universal, inherent, and incurable, and it is man's fault.

B. Man has traces of greatness because of divine creation in God's image. But in the fall, Adam lost all.

C. Baptists believe that man is a wicked sinner, not comatose, but dead. It is not in man to come to Christ.

D. Some Baptists might disagree and make the free will argument as Pilate foolishly thought **John 19:10-11**. Yet many Protestant hold to the truth here also.

III. In Soteriology

A. Baptists hold to a position of total grace in the study of salvation. This grace extends from eternity past to eternity future.

B. The election of grace **Romans 11:5-6**.

C. Called by grace **II Timothy 1:9**.

D. Saved by grace **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

E. Kept by grace **II Timothy 1:12**.

F. Sanctified by grace **Titus 2:11-14**.

G. This great grace saves the sinner by bringing them to the end of themselves and then bringing them to Christ. Some Baptists might disagree to their shame and yet many Protestants would agree. No distinction yet.

IV. In Eschatology

A. Most Baptists have been Chiliasts, believing that Christ will come before the Millennium **Revelation 20:6**.

B. And Christ will come! **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

C. The world will get worse and worse and the only hope for world peace is from the greater son of David, Jesus Christ. When He sits on the Throne of David for 1,000 years then there will be peace **Luke 1:31-33**.

D. Some Baptists disagree and espouse the RCC view of Amillennialism, but they shall be raptured nonetheless. Still, many Protestants hold to the Chiliast view as do Baptists.

V. In Evangelism

A. Baptists hold to the need for worldwide evangelism and that they owe a debt to guilty sinners **Acts 1:8** and **Romans 1:14**.

B. This evangelism is both local and spread abroad, being blind to race, religion, and rank.

C. Some Baptists may profess to be missionary, but truly are hard-shell or simply preoccupied with the world.

D. Yet, many Protestant and evangelical groups are missionary in nature. However, they cannot fulfill the entire Great Commission as we shall see.

VI. In Conscience

A. Baptists hold to only two offices in church government, pastors and deacons. There should be no Nicolaitanism **Revelation 2:6 and 15**.

B. Baptists perpetuate no persecution of other religions, no matter how heretical they may be **I Timothy 3:3** and **II Timothy 2:24**.

C. Baptist priesthood is the individual priesthood of every believer, a royal priesthood **I Peter 2:9**, with only one mediator **I Timothy 2:5**.

D. Baptists believe in the separation of church and state. Christ is the Head of the Church and only through volunteer offerings is His Church to be financed. Again, and finally, many Protestant and non-denominational groups will Amen these truths.

So what are the doctrines that distinguish Baptists from all others?

VII. Ecclesiology

A. Baptists hold to a local visible view of the church. **I Corinthians 12:27**. **Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular**. There is no one universal visible or invisible church.

B. The Lord's Supper is restricted to members only. Out of the ~120 Christians in Jerusalem (**Acts 1**) at the time of the first Lord's Supper only the eleven members partook.

C. We will not accept any baptism that comes from a church that is not Baptist or that knowingly accepts or endorses other baptisms.

These truths are essential to true Baptist Churches because we were brutally persecuted for them for the past 1600 years. We have contended for these truths over time or else we wouldn't be here today.

D. Other Christians may disagree on these matters but they may not disagree and call themselves a Baptist. And why would they want to?

E. America is filled with professing Baptist churches today whose Baptism is indistinguishable from Protestants and whose communion is open.

- They rebaptize few if any.
- They lack understanding of church authority.

- They open the Lord's Table to all.

Conclusion

You don't have to agree with these truths to go to heaven. But if not, then say so. Do not hide behind the crimson red banner of the Baptists. Let Protestants be Protestants and every Baptist be a Baptist. Remember that "borrowed beliefs have no power." Why are you a Baptist?