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# What a Baptist Believe



Baptists believe that faith is a matter between God and the individual (religious freedom). To them it means the advocacy of absolute liberty of conscience. Insistence on immersion as the only mode of baptism.

The Baptists are one of the largest Christian denominations. As indicated by their name, the primary Baptist distinctive is their practice of "believer's baptism" instead of infant baptism.

## Basic Christian Beliefs

1. There is an unseen spirit realm- the domain of God and His created being (angel are ministering spirits).
2. There is only one God, the God of Israel. The Bible reveals God as Spirit and as three knowable persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
3. God is Creator and Sustainer of all things, seen and unseen.
4. God has attributes: He is holy, sinless, righteous, sovereign, just, loving, merciful, eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.
5. God the Father is knowable only through His Son Jesus Christ (Jesus 'the Anointed One').
6. God showed His love for us by becoming the man Jesus Christ.
7. Jesus, the second Person in the triune Godhead, was God in human form. As such He is divine and sinless, and men should give the same honour to Christ as they do to the Father.



8. Jesus showed God's love for man by teaching us about the kingdom of God, by suffering and dying for each of us on a cross, and by rising again to heaven. In essence, God loves us so much that He suffered and died for each one of us.
9. Jesus lives and is the only way to God the Father. In Old Testament terms, Jesus is our 'high priest' and in New Testament terms Jesus is our Saviour from the judgment of a righteous and holy God.
10. Jesus is co-Creator of heaven and earth and holds all things in His hands. He is omnipresent i.e. He is everywhere throughout His creation.
11. Jesus is coming again soon. Many prophecies point to His return to earth to defeat the defiant armies of rebellious nations, to reign as king of the earth from Jerusalem, and to usher in a time of peace on the earth.
12. The Holy Spirit is a person (He can be grieved for example) and could be seen as the presence and power of God amongst men.
13. Followers of Jesus are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, enabling them to have a close, loving relationship with the Father and with Jesus His Son. So they are never alone- God is always with them.
14. The Holy Spirit enables a believer to know God and glorify Him through powerful supernatural experiences, as in words of knowledge, guidance and physical healing.
15. Everyone is sinful in the sight of a holy God and needs to be 'born again' in order to be reconciled to God. All that God requires of an individual is belief in the living Christ and acceptance of His forgiveness for past sin. God has done the rest.



16. Followers of Jesus (believers) are then promised forgiveness, reconciliation to God, a resurrected immortal body and eternal life. Followers are saved from the judgment of God; they have passed from death to life.
17. There are many promises to believers and benefits of the Christian life.
18. Man lives only once and after death will be judged righteously by God according to his response to received revelation. Followers of Jesus (believers) will not come under this judgment, but instead will receive rewards for their service to Christ at the resurrection.
19. The existence of Heaven and Hell was confirmed by Jesus. At the judgment, those whose names are not written in God's book of life will be assigned to Hell. Believers have eternal life and their final destiny is with God in the New Earth.
20. The Bible is the word of God, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. Its truth has been preserved by the Holy Spirit over the ages.
21. The Bible and particularly Jesus' teachings give God's transcendent and timeless moral standards for man.
22. The Bible gives many prophecies pertaining to the end of the age.
23. Jesus started His church through His Apostles. The role of the church is to proclaim and demonstrate the coming kingdom of God.
24. The true church will be supernaturally removed from the earth at the end of the age and before God's judgments upon the earth. All true believers, past and present will take part in this resurrection. They will receive immortal bodies and be with Christ forever.



25. The nation of Israel is God's chosen witness to the nations. Twelve tribes of Israel is found throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

26. Contrary to the belief of many churches, Israel has not been replaced by the church. Rather, Israel will be used as God's special witness at the end of the present age.

Christian doctrine is a set of fundamental beliefs accepted as authoritative and true by the church. The beliefs are formally set out as a creed. The most widely accepted creeds are the Apostles' Creed and particularly the Nicene Creed (which is accepted by Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches). Some non-mainstream churches see no need for a formal creed, although this could be seen as dangerous since it encourages vague thinking and heretical concepts.

A major area of controversy has been the doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine holds that God is One, but that three distinct "persons" constitute the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is taught indirectly in various biblical statements, and is formally defined in the Nicene Creed. (is a statement of belief widely used in Christian liturgy. It is called Nicene/ n ai s i: n/ because it was originally adopted in the city of Nicaea (Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea in 325).

Jesus instituted the church- His church (Matt. 16:18). It is a mix of people from all nations and races who have given their lives over to Jesus and who now live for Him.



## **XII. The Law and Gospel**

**We believe the Scriptures teach** that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

1. Romans 3:31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20; 4:15
2. Romans 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Galatians 3:21; Psalm 119
3. Romans 8: 7-8; Joshua 24:19; Jeremiah 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44
4. Romans 8: 2, 4; 10:4; I Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 8:10; Jude 20-21; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 16:17-18; I Corinthians 12:28



## **XV. The Christian Sabbath**

**We believe the Scriptures teach** that the first day of the week is Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the mans of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

1. Acts 20:7; Genesis 2:3; Colossians 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; I Corinthians 16:1-2



2. Exodus 20:8; Revelations 1:10; Psalm 118:24
3. Isaiah 38:13-14; 56:2-8
4. Psalm 119:15
5. Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 13:44; Leviticus 19:30; Exodus 46:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2, 3; Psalm 26:8; 87:3
6. Hebrews 4:3-11

"Remember the  
Sabbath day  
by keeping it holy."  
—Exodus 20:8

## XVI. Civil Government

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

1. Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18; I Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:23; Jeremiah 30:21
2. Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13; I Timothy 2:1-8
3. Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
4. Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 72:11; Psalm 2; Romans 14:9-13

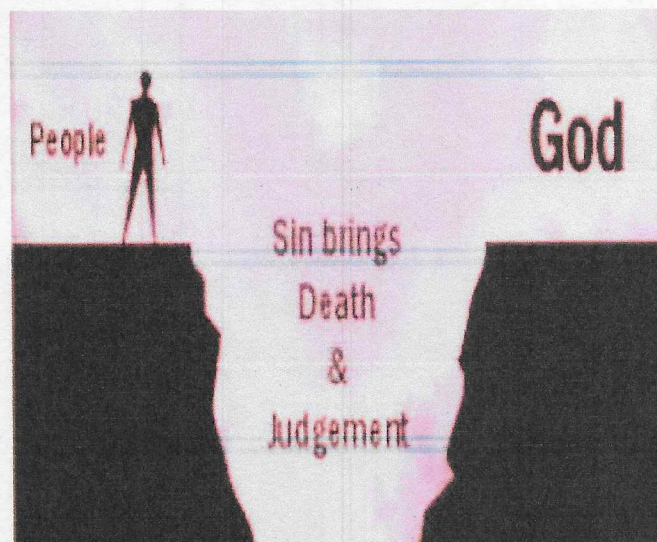




## XVII. Righteous and Wicked

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

1. Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Jeremiah 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16
2. Romans 1:17; 7:6; I John 2:29; 3:7; Romans 6:18, 22; I Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 11:31; I Peter 4:17-18
3. I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21; Psalm 10:4; Isaiah 55: 6-7
4. Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Proverbs 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13-14





## XVIII. The World to Come

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

1. I Peter 4:7; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Matthew 24:35; I John 2:17; Matthew 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Peter 3:3-13
2. Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11
3. Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; II Timothy 1:10; Acts 10:42
4. Matthew 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33
5. Matthew 25:35-41; Revelation 22:11; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:32; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Corinthians 4:18
6. Romans 3:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; I Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; Revelation 20:11-12; I John 2:28; 4:17

