

## INDEPENDENT - FUNDAMENTAL - BAPTIST

- We believe the truths from the Bible that have been historically called the Baptist Distinctives
  - Biblical \_\_\_\_\_
    - In all matters of faith and practice.
    - We believe the Bible is inspired and infallible and is the final authority.
    - We receive the fundamental doctrines of our faith from the Bible.
    - We receive the pattern for our church organization from the Bible.
    - **2Ti 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:  
**2Ti 3:17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Self-governing power of the local church.
    - We believe every church should be independent of a hierarchical framework or outside government structure.
    - **Col 1:18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of Believers
    - God's Word assures believers that we have direct access to God through our relationship with Christ.
    - The priesthood of the believer is the privilege of every child of God.
    - **Re 1:6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
    - **1Ti 2:5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
    - **Heb 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
  - Two \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church
    - Pastor (Also referred to as Elder and Bishop)
    - Deacon
    - These two offices are to be filled by godly men of integrity in each local church.
    - **Php 1:1** ¶ Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

- Individual Soul \_\_\_\_\_
  - Each person must make a personal decision to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour.
  - **Ro 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.
  - **Ro 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ of church and state
  - The state should have no power to intervene in the free expression of religious liberty.
  - The phrase “Separation of Church and State” was not created to keep the church out of government, but the government out of church.
  - **Ac 5:29** Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
  
- Two \_\_\_\_\_
  - Baptism
  - The Lord’s Supper (Communion)
  - These ordinances have no part in salvation.
  - These ordinances only serve as pictures of what Christ did for us.
  - **1Co 11:2** Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.
  - **Ac 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.
  - **1Co 11:24** And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**
  - **1Co 11:25** After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**
  - **1Co 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
  
- Separation and Personal \_\_\_\_\_
  - Christ’s ultimate sacrifice demands our complete consecration.
  - Our daily living should reflect the holiness of our great God.
  - **2Co 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
  - **1Pe 1:15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
  - **1Pe 1:16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership
  - Salvation is a necessary requirement for membership.
  - **Ac 2:47** ...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
- The term “Baptist” is important because it \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - We are honest enough to tell the public who we are.
  - Many Baptist churches are publicly removing the name Baptist because it isn’t popular.
  - When you go to a church you should be able to know that they at least believe the same basic doctrines that you do.
- The term “Baptist” is important because it \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - Our name connects us to our \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Some denominations hold to some of the distinctives, but no other group holds to all of these distinctives.
  - Our name connects us to our \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Our forefathers were imprisoned, whipped, and martyred for holding to the Baptist distinctives.
    - Their sacrificial stand deserves our high respect.
  - **Jer 6:16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the **old paths**, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.
  - **Pr 22:28** ¶ Remove not the **ancient landmark**, which thy fathers have set.
  - Baptist history is the story of Christians seeking the old paths and the ancient landmarks for which great men of faith have suffered and died to hand down to us.
- Baptists have never been \_\_\_\_\_.
- After the Civil War a theological liberal movement called \_\_\_\_\_ became a serious threat to American churches.
- In 1909 A.C. Dixon and R. A. Torrey began publishing a 12-volume set of books titled The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth.
  - They became known as the Five Points of Fundamentalism
    - The inerrancy of Scripture
    - The virgin birth of Christ
    - The substitutional atonement of Christ
    - The bodily resurrection and future second coming of Christ
    - The authenticity of the biblical miracles
- Anybody who was against Modernism and who believed these fundamentals of the faith made an effort to identify themselves as a “fundamentalist”.

- The Northern Baptists had some prominent pastors who were supported by wealthy liberal donors, so they preached liberal doctrines.
  - One famous sermon in 1922 was “Shall the Fundamentalists Win?”
  - In the 1930s, many pastors pulled their churches out of the Northern Baptist Convention.
- It wasn’t long until liberalism pushed its way into the Southern Baptist Convention as well.
  - In the 1940s, many Southern Baptist pastors chose to leave the convention instead of compromising their faith.
- Reasons for leaving the conventions:
  - The conventions collected churches’ mission’s money and used it to support missionaries who didn’t believe the gospel or the fundamentals of the faith.
  - They corrupted the minds of students in their seminaries, as they taught liberalism.
  - They elected men to leadership positions within the conventions who did not believe the Bible and the gospel.
- The churches that left the Conventions didn’t have a name other than Baptist Churches.
  - They were fundamental – That’s why they left the liberal Conventions.
  - They were independent – They were on their own.
  - They were Baptist – They still held to the Scriptural distinctives that Baptists had always believed.
  - They became known as Independent Fundamental Baptists.
- Independent Baptist churches have historically been soulwinning churches that work to reach communities with the gospel through bus ministries, addiction programs, prison ministries, and other soulwinning ministries.
- The original Baptist churches in America were completely independent, then they grouped themselves into associations, then they grew into conventions, then many who left the conventions became independent, but formed fellowships centered around missionaries or colleges. Eventually, many left fellowships to become completely independent - like the original Baptist churches in America.
  
- We are Independent.
  - We are an autonomous, self-governing, New Testament church.
- We are Fundamental.
  - We believe the core doctrines of the Bible literally.
- We are Baptist.
  - Our doctrine and practice hold Scripture as the only final authority for what we believe and how we live.