

Immanuel Baptist Church Basics for Baptists- Part 2

This two day series is for visitors, new members, and anybody who wants a refresher on who we are as Christians and Baptists. The Bible tells us to be holy because He, God, is holy. To be holy means to be blameless, different from people in the unbelieving world around us who live without God. The purpose of these two class sessions is to clarify what sets us apart as Christian individuals, the Christian church, Baptists and members of a Baptist Church.

The outline we are following includes these topics

1. The Essential Beliefs of Christianity
2. Baptist History and Traditions
3. Expectations of a Christian and Baptist Church Members
4. Immanuel Baptist Church History and Leadership.

To guide our discussion, will use the eighteen topical titles from the Baptist Faith & Message, but focus primarily on the relationship aspects of the doctrines and how they are different from other beliefs in the world.

Quick Review from Last Week: The Essential Beliefs of Christianity

I. The Scriptures - the Bible - The Word of God

1. It is reliable and accurate
 2. It is authored by God using human writers
 3. It is complete and stands alone as God's word to man.
 4. From Genesis to Revelation, it is about Jesus.
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1. 2 Peter 1:20-21 "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
 2. Luke 24:27 – "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he (Jesus) interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."
 3. Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

II. God- One God in Three Persons without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

1. He is one and there is no other- stated hundreds of times in the Old Testament
Isaiah 45:5a "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."
2. His character is good- (the John 3:16 of the Old Testament)
Exodus 34:5-7a "Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."
3. He is the perfect Father
Matthew 6:6b "pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."
Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

God the Son- fully human, fully God, and the only pathway to heaven.

He is the only pathway to heaven

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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

Matthew 28:18 “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.”

Colossians 1:15-20 “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Hebrews 1:1-4 “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

Starting Part 2 of Basics for Baptists

God the Holy Spirit- indwells and secures all believers in God’s kingdom

The Holy Spirit is equal in deity, sent by God the Father and the Son, convicts of sin, reveals God’s will and truth, protects, empowers, guides, and indwells all believers.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

III. Man-all of humanity has a sin nature that can only be cured through Christ

All people are born with a sin nature and powerless to become sinless

Genesis 6:12 God speaking to Noah before the flood “God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.”

Genesis 8:21 God speaking to Noah after the flood ““Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20 “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.”

Psalms 14:3, Romans 3:10 “They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

IV. Salvation- From before the beginning of the world, God had a plan to redeem man from sin.

1 Peter 1:18-20 “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

Mark 16:16 “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Acts 2:38 “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 10:9 “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””

V. God’s Purpose of Grace- Grace is God’s love reaching out to save us while we were yet sinners and sustaining and sanctifying us while we are yet still sinners.

Romans 3:24 “...are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

VI. The Church- The Church is the body of Christ in the world today made up of all believers unified through God’s “agape” love and under the directing of the Holy Spirit.

In the Bible, the word church can refer to the church universal made up of all believers, or a smaller assembly gathering as a body to worship, grow, and serve together.

Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Rock=Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus as Savior, the Son of the Living God!

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

Ephesians 1:22 “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,”

VII. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper-Celebrations of new life through Jesus our risen savior, and remembrance of His sacrificial death which redeemed us and His promise to come again.

Ordinances not sacraments, symbolic, no mystical power of the ceremony

Both Baptism (means immerse) and the Lord’s Supper are ordained by Christ himself, symbolizing spiritual truth. These are generally the only two ordinances celebrated by Protestant denominations because Jesus gave

specific instructions for these. Jesus said “Do this (Lord’s Supper) in remembrance of me,” and “Go, make disciples and baptize them”....

Sacraments is a word translated from the word mystery. Some believe these practices reveal divine mysteries of God’s grace. The Catholic Church (and to some extent the Orthodox Church) generally practice seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

VIII. The Lord’s Day- Day of rest and worship commemorating Christ’s resurrection

Celebrated on the first day of the week when Christ arose, Sunday. No specific New Testament command, but verses in Acts and 1 Corinthians suggest the practice was becoming routine in place of resting on the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday. Most Protestants and Catholics worship on Sunday. Jews, Islamists, and Seventh Day Adventists worship on Friday-Saturday.

IX. The Kingdom- Though God is absolutely sovereign over all the universe, in the Church age (now) the Kingdom, generally refers to God’s perfect domain and those saved to be part of His family. We, and all believers, are part of God’s Kingdom on earth today.

Matthew 4:1 “From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.””
John 18:36 “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 17:21 Jesus speaking here is often translated the Kingdom is “within you.”

We are to pray for the day when Christ returns and bring all things under His Lordship. Jesus said pray this way, “Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven...” In Revelation, we are assured that all will be brought under God’s perfect will in the end.

X. Last Things- Christ will return, the dead will be raised, and He will judge all men

The righteous, saved by faith, will be glorified, rewarded, and brought to dwell in Heaven forever. The lost, those who rejected Christ, will be consigned to hell, a real place of torment.

XI. Evangelism and Missions- “Go make Disciples” Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Since 1845, Southern Baptists have sent almost 25,000 missionaries to 185 countries around the world. Today the SBC is sponsoring about 5,000 missionaries in the America, and over 5,000 in foreign missions.

XII. Education- Christianity and Baptists have strongly supported education since the early days of the Reformation

Somewhat based on 1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Christians should be able to read and study the Bible for themselves. Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake for translating scripture into English early in the Reformation period.

A great many colleges and universities in England and America had their beginnings, 200-300 years ago, by churches, ministers, or other Christian leaders with a passion for education. Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, and the University of Georgia?

Read about Abraham Baldwin, Yale graduate and minister living in Augusta Georgia, wrote the first charter for a public university on America, the University of Georgia, now considered the birthplace of public higher education.

Almost 50 Baptist affiliated colleges and universities including seminaries today.

Make disciples teaching them how to study God's word themselves and grow to maturity.

XIII. Stewardship- Very simple, God owns it all, we are only stewards

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."

Deuteronomy 10:14 "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it."

Exodus 19:5 "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine."

Job 41:11 "Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine."

XIV. Cooperation-As seen in the New Testament churches

See the examples in the epistles: collections for the poor, shared letters, missionaries, prayers.

With other Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention and with other Christian denominations: missions, disaster relief, higher education, Christian educational materials, Christian and social research.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order-Submission within God's will is a testimony.

Matthew 22:37 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

1 Peter 2:13-15 "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people."

Jeremiah 29:5, 7 "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce" (29:5), and "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (29:7).

XVI. Peace and War-Christians are to seek peace if possible

Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

XVII. Religious Liberty-

Acts 5:27-29 "And when they had brought them (the Apostles), they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

XVIII. The Family

Family is God's design and the foundational institution of human society, starting with Adam and Eve. Marriage intended to be a lifelong commitment between one biological man and one biological wife.

Baptist History and Traditions

The first Baptist gatherings or churches began within a few years of the start of the Reformation, early 1600's. They separated from other churches because they believed membership should be voluntary, only believers should be members, infants should not be baptized, and individual church congregations should be autonomous. Baptist associations of churches began around 1700 in New England for the primary purpose of ordaining pastors. In the late 1700's they begin to work together on missions and evangelism activities. By 1790 there were 35 Baptist associations, and approximately 560 ministers, 750 churches and 60,000 members in the U.S.

In May 1845, the First Baptist Church Augusta GA, William Theophilus Brantly, Jr. pastor, hosted a convention of 130 delegates from southern Baptist churches. Part of the catalyst for this southern convention was that the American Home Mission Board of the Baptist of the United States refused to appoint a southern missionary to the mission field who had been a slave owner. The southern churches were not advocating slavery, but they felt the proposed missionary had not been treated fairly. Political tensions between the North and South were very high. What was formed in May 1845 meeting, is now the Southern Baptist Convention.

Four of the top 10 largest denominations in the U.S. are Baptists. The SCB is the largest peaking in 2006 with about 16 million members in 45,800 churches. In 2022, reports show 13.7 million members. The number of churches appears to be increasing, but most new churches are very small.

The primary mindset that underlies Baptists beliefs and practices is obedience to the inerrancy of the Bible, Jesus' example, and models of church organization and practice in the New Testament. We see this mindset come through in such things as:

The Bible has sole authority over the Christian faith.

Individual churches are autonomous and self-governed.

Education individual members is expected- priesthood of the believer

Missions and evangelism have high priority based on Jesus' commands

The symbolic ordinances were instituted by Jesus

Membership is for those who profess faith in Christ alone for salvation, no infant baptism.

Religious liberty

Expectations of a Christian and Baptist Church Members

Essentially all Christian denominations believe the first three topics we covered about the Bible, God, and the sin nature of man. Most also agree with the next three regarding salvation, grace and the church.

Anyone denying the spiritual truths revealed through the Bible on any of these six topics should be carefully examined before membership.

Baptist Church Members Should:

- Affirm belief in and support of the church's statement of faith, and the Baptist Faith and Message, and
- Commit, in the fellowship of believers called to that church, to worship, grow together into spiritual maturity, serve in the mission and ministries of the church, give of resources abundantly and joyfully, seek a spirit of unity, peace, and love among the members, and pray regularly for all.

Immanuel Baptist Church History and Leadership.

Like most Baptist churches: Ordained Pastor, Deacons, Bylaws, policies and procedures, committees, Sunday school classes, missions emphasis, and prayer activities midweek.