



“Why I Am a Baptist”
Outline for Wednesday Night Bible Studies
June 25th & July 2nd, 2008
Pastor Darrel Manning

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

(1 Peter 3:15)

Introductory Statement #1:

A person can be a Christian and not be a Baptist. We are heaven-bound because we've trusted in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, not because of our denominational affiliation. A person can be a Baptist and not end up in heaven.

Introductory Statement #2:

Baptists are not Protestants. Of the two major secular religious divisions: Catholic and Protestant, Baptists are neither. The Protestant Movement split off from the Catholic Church during the Protestant Reformation. A Protestant church still contains remnants of faith and practice from its Catholic ancestors, a Baptist church does not.

Introductory Statement #3:

I don't believe the Baptist doctrine because I am a Baptist; I am a Baptist because I believe that the doctrine of the Baptists is the closest to the teachings of the Word of God.

I. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine that the Bible is the only standard for our faith and practice.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible was inspired by God. It does not just contain the words of God, or the thoughts of God, it was inspired word-for-word by God. He wrote it; He has preserved it.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

(Matthew 4:4)

II. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of the liberty of the human soul.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

(Romans 14:12)

Your relationship with God is determined by you and you alone. Every individual person has the freedom to decide for themselves their relationship with God.

III. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of spiritual regeneration.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 3:3)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

(John 3:14-15)

A person does not go to heaven because of baptism, the Lord's Supper, saved family members, or church membership. We are saved because we believe and accept that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to save us.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

IV. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine that the only two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are both symbolic pictures of what happened at salvation; neither one of them have anything to do with salvation.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Matthew 28:19-20)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

(Romans 6:3-5)

Baptism doesn't add anything to salvation. It pictures what happened at salvation. It is the first step of obedience to Christ and indentifying yourself with Him.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

The Lord's Supper pictures what Jesus did in order to give us salvation.

V. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine that the ordinance of baptism means immersion, and that it comes after salvation as a symbol or picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

(Acts 8:36-38)

Baptism requires three elements:

- a) A person who is saved*
- b) The proper mode – immersion*
- c) The proper authority – the New Testament Church*

VI. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of religious liberty and separation of church and state.

The government should not tell a church how to operate. There should not be an established state church or state religion. Baptists believe in religious liberty. The understanding of "the separation of church and state" has been inverted from what our nation's founders originally intended.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

(John 18:36)

VII. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of converted church membership.

You are not afforded church membership until you have accepted Christ and been baptized.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:41)

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

(Acts 2:47b)

VIII. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of the autonomy of the local church.

There is no outside person or organization that tells a New Testament church what to do or how to operate. Jesus is the Head and Lord of our church. The Bible is our Guidebook. The pastor is the under-shepherd.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

(Matthew 18:15-17)

IX. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of the priesthood of every believer.

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

(Revelation 1:5-6)

If you are saved, you are a priest. A Christian has every privilege that an Old Testament priest had. You have a direct line to God with no other person going between God and man. We have access to God.

X. I am a Baptist because I believe the Baptist doctrine of eternal security.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1:5)

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

(John 10:28-29)

Once we get saved, we are saved forever. We are not saved because of our actions or works, good or bad – past, present, or future. We are saved because of our acceptance of what Jesus did on our behalf.