

Why we are Baptist

Baptist Distinctives



April 10, 2022

Our church has chosen the denominational name Baptist to represent who we are as a church. Believers from early times were nicknamed **anabaptist** (*later "Baptist"*) because of their distinct belief system they adhered to from the Bible. The acronym BAPTISTS easily displays the eight distinctive beliefs of Baptists.

- B** – Bible is the Final Authority in All Matters
- A** – Autonomy (self-governing, local control) of Local Churches
- P** – Priesthood of Believers
- T** – Two Church Ordinances (observances)
- I** – Individual Soul Liberty
- S** – Security of a Believer's Salvation
- T** – Two Offices in the Church
- S** – Separation of Church and State

INDIVIDUAL Soul Liberty

1. A distinct belief about an Individual's Freedom and God

- The Bible teaches that every person is a living soul created by God who is given by God **certain inalienable rights** (*unable to be taken away*) and who will ultimately give answer to God for their life and choices. This is true liberty! – Gen. 1:26-28, 2:7; Heb. 9:27; Rom. 14:5-12
- God has always given all mankind and nations the ability to _____ – Gen. 2:16-17; Deut. 30:19-20; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; John 3:16; Rev. 20:6-10, 22:17-19.
- A Christian's liberty from God through Christ is _____, yet comes with great responsibility – John 8:36; Acts 24:16; 1 Cor. 6:12, 10:13.
- The United States of America was founded on this Bible doctrine of soul liberty ("**certain inalienable rights**" given to us by God). Bible preachers and believers embraced this doctrine at our country's founding. The Declaration of Independence (*from England*) testifies to this!

2. What other beliefs are out there?

- The Calvinist belief system (*nicknamed after John Calvin*) is represented by the acronym T.U.L.I.P. Calvinism contradicts soul liberty and free will purporting that God has already chosen those who will be saved and those who will die and go to hell – Rom. 9 (*Jacob & Esau*); 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 2:2.
- Many governments create national religions where individual beliefs about God, Jesus, atheism, etc. are not a _____, but forced upon individuals...sometimes with great persecution.

3. What do I do with this distinct belief about the Bible?

- Be thankful you are not bound in a religion of **do's/don'ts** with Jesus Christ, but in a love relationship with God of _____/cans – 2 Cor. 1:19, 3:17; Gal. 5:1.
- God gives us our liberty in Christ so that we may _____ others as Jesus Christ did – John 8:36; Gal. 5:13; 1 Pet. 2:13-25 (15-16).

On July 2, 1776, after months of deliberation and while directing battle in the colonies and Canada, the Second Continental Congress voted to declare the "United States of America" separate and independent from Britain. On July 4, the Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson. Copies were immediately printed and distributed throughout the colonies and the continental troops. On July 9, with the approval of the last colony, New York, the Declaration became the "unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America." On August 2, 1776, the printed Declaration was signed by most of the congressional delegates, the final signature affixed in 1781 by the New Hampshire delegate.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

(First 1.5 paragraphs)

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. ∅ That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, ∅ That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.