

Why we are Baptist

An Introduction



March 13, 2022

The Baptist part of Greentown Baptist Church

- The denominational name Baptist relates to a specific belief system – Acts 2:41-47; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- What about other denominations? – Matt. 16:13-18; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 14:33
- *Disclaimer:* All genuine Christians now and throughout history are NOT Baptist and all Baptists are NOT genuine Christians because of their denominational name. However, Baptist doctrine is very _____ and aligned with the core biblical teachings of the New Testament.

What's in a name? Why have a denominational name?

- A name reflects someone or something's **description** or _____ – Gen. 17:1-6; 32:28; Matt. 1:21; Acts 13:9; Matt. 3:1; Mark 3:17; John 1:42.
- The denominational name **Baptist** means “one who baptizes or immerses in water” and was born in Europe through a chiding nickname given to people groups who held baptistic doctrines. The people groups called _____ were the *Albigenses, Huguenots, Nestorians, Novations, Donatists, Paulicians, Patarines, Hutterites, Pauliceans, Mennonites, and Waldenses*.
- Though non-denominational churches may not have a denominational name attached to them that defines their belief system...they still _____ a belief system that likely aligns to a main-line denomination's **description** or **belief system**.
- Why are churches increasingly choosing not to use denominational names, and is that ok? – Tit. 1:10-13; John 6:44, 12:32

Baptist means many different things today

*Free-will Baptists –
Independent Fundamental Baptists –
Legalistic Baptists –
Liberalistic Baptists –
Calvinistic Baptists –
Southern Baptists –
American Baptists –
First, Second, and Third Baptist Churches –
Westboro Baptist Church –*

Famous and Infamous Baptists

- **Preachers, theologians, missionaries:** John Bunyan, John Gill, Charles Spurgeon, William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Luther Rice, Oswald Chambers, Clarence Larkin, Mordecai Ham, Billy Graham, Jack Hyles, Martin Luther King Jr., Adrian Rogers, Jerry Falwell, Chuck Swindoll, Charles Stanley, Pat Robertson, Louis Giglio.
- **Politicians:** Andrew Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, Warren Harding, Harry Truman, Nelson Rockefeller, Robert Byrd, James Callaghan, Yukio Hatoyama, John McCain, Jimmy Carter, Mike Huckabee, Jesse Jackson, Bill Clinton, Al _____, Newt Gingrich, Lindsey Graham, Ron Paul, Clarence Thomas, Trey Gowdy.
- **Businessmen:** S. Truett Cathy, J.C. Penney, John D. Rockefeller, David/Barbara Green, Dave Thomas.
- **Entertainers:** Warren Beatty, Chuck Berry, Glen Campbell, Aaron Carter, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Kevin Costner, Bette Davis, Jamie Foxx, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Holly, Whitney Houston, B.B. King, Gladys Knight, Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntyre, Eddie Murphy, Chuck Norris, Grady Nutt, Brad Pitt, Dennis Quaid, Diana Ross, Willard Scott, Ashlee Simpson, Jessica Simpson, _____, Snoop Dog, Glenn Campbell, Chuck Berry, Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Carrie Underwood, Billy Vaughn, Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey, Dan Whitney, Stephen Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns.
- **Authors, Athletes, Criminals, TV personalities:** Ray Bradbury, John Grisham, Tim LaHaye, Jim Brown, Reggie White, Joe Frazier, Tim Tebow, Reggie White, Tony Dungy RG3, Jessie James, The _____.

Baptists Worldwide

- There are approximately 50,000,000 Baptists in the United States (out of 327,000,000...15%). The Baptist denomination is the largest denomination in the United States behind the Catholic Church. Almost _____% of Baptists worldwide live in the United States.
- The largest populations of Baptists outside of the United States are in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, notably in India (2.4 million), Nigeria (2.3 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.9 million), and Brazil (1.5 million).
- Another country outside of the United States where Baptists are prominent is _____.

Conclusion

- What denomination would Jesus be? – John 4:23; Eph. 4:2-6
- What you can _____-take from a Baptist – Mark 7:1-13; 1 Cor. 11:13-17.
- Baptists are at our best when we hold our distinctions with conviction, humility, and _____ – 1 Cor. 13:1-3.