

# WHAT IS A BAPTIST? ACTS 2:36-47

The following discussion is both description – what Baptists **are**  
It is also prescription – what Baptists **should be**

## 1. Baptists are **Orthodox Trinitarians**

Logically this must come first and is always central.

You could potentially have all the Baptist Distinctives and **not** even be a Christian!  
**Being a Christian precedes being a Baptist.**

**This is, of course, not only taught in Baptist churches, this is the way we encounter God Himself!**

**Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

**Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

**2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; Revelation 1:5 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, Revelation 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.**

**Stated simply:**

- **There is only one God (monotheism not polytheism, henotheism, or pantheism)**
- **There are three who are called God**
- **Trinity: one God in three persons**

Baptists have usually not been a creedal people. Typically the great creeds of the church are studied in Bible College & Seminary and then more or less assumed and drawn upon as needed.

**Helpful on the whole: Athanasius / Athanasian Creed, Nicene Creed, Chalcedon Creed**

## 2. Baptists are **evangelical & evangelistic!** (Gospel believing and Gospel preaching)

**John 3:16 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.**

- **The love of God**
- **The gift of God**
- **The substitutionary death of Christ**
- **The simplicity of faith**
- **The life of God and with God!**

**1 Corinthians 15:1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **1 Corinthians 15:2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **1 Corinthians 15:4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: **1 Corinthians 15:5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: **1 Corinthians 15:6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. **1 Corinthians 15:7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. **1 Corinthians 15:8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. **1 Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **1 Corinthians 15:11** Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

## **The Gospel: Good news of salvation!**

- **Salvation in Christ**
- **Salvation from sin**
- **Salvation according to the Scripture**
- **Salvation within history (time & and space)**
- **Salvation with eyewitness testimony &/ evidence**

**1 John 1:1** THAT which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** upon, and our hands have **handled**, of the Word of life; **1 John 1:2** (For the life was manifested, and we have **seen** it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **1 John 1:3** That which we have **seen** and **heard** declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

- **Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone**

**Ephesians 2:8** For **by** grace are ye saved **through** faith; and that **not** of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Ephesians 2:9** **Not** of works, lest any man should boast.

**Acts 10:43** **To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

**Acts 11:18** When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, **Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**

**Acts 11:23** **Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God,** was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. **Acts 11:24** For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

**Acts 14:24** And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. **Acts 14:25** And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: **Acts 14:26** And thence sailed to Antioch, **from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.** **Acts 14:27** And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, **they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.** **Acts 14:28** And there they abode long time with the disciples.

**Acts 15:11** **But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

**Acts 16:14** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.**

**Acts 18:27** And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, **helped them much which had believed through grace:**

**Romans 3:24** **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

**Romans 3:28** **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

**Romans 4:1** What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? **Romans 4:2** For **if** Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. **Romans 4:3** **For what saith the scripture?** Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **Romans 4:4** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of

grace, but of debt. **Romans 4:5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**Romans 4:6** Even as David **also** describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness **without** works, **Romans 4:7** Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. **Romans 4:8** Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

➤ **Salvation (the one, same, & only Gospel) from all the apostles!**

**1 Corinthians 15:11** Therefore whether it were **I** or **they**, so we preach, and so ye believed.

**Jude 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you **of the common salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **Jude 4** For there are certain men **crept in unawares** (**Παρεισέδυσαν**), who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning** the grace of our God **into** lasciviousness (τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν χάριν μετατιθέντες εἰς ἀσέλγειαν), and **denying** the only Lord God (τὸν μόνον δεσπότην θεόν), and our Lord Jesus Christ (κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν χριστὸν).

**Sola gratia:** by grace alone!

**Sola fide:** through faith alone!

**Solus Christus:** because of Christ alone!

**Sola Scriptura:** based upon the Bible alone!

**Soli Deo Gloria:** To God alone be the glory!

### **3. Baptists are theologically integrated – the Baptist Distinctives!**

**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Acts 2:46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, **Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**For many this is very confusing! What are Baptist distinctives?**

➤ **We baptize / dunk believers!**

➤ **A shopping list!**

Soap, bread, writing paper, light bulbs, milk, eggs, trash bags....

All good things to have but they have no inherent connections!

➤ **A Baptist recipe:**

A. **All** carefully chosen ingredients:

B. **All** found in the NT

C. **Some** found in other groups

D. All found in the **Baptist recipe**

E. Carefully mixed in proper proportions

F. When all the distinctives are found together → they make up the Baptist Distinctives and they make Baptists distinctive!!!

**B – Biblical Authority, NT Priority**

**R – Regenerate Church Membership / a Gathered Church**

**A – Autonomy of the Local Church**

**P – Priesthood of all Believers**

**T – Two Ordinances (and **only** Two Ordinances)**

**I – Individual Soul Liberty of the Believer**

**S – Separation of Church & State**

**T – Two Offices (and **only** Two Offices)**

**S – Separation **both** personally and ecclesiastically**