



John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The English Reformation

Many Christians – both clergy and laity – were not happy with the middle ground of Anglicanism within the Church of England. Those who were dissatisfied sought to purge and “purify” the church of all things Roman Catholic and restore the church to what they believed was its New Testament character. They were known as _____.

Two “Radical” Groups

1. _____ 2. _____

Baptist Reforms

1. Rejection of _____.

Baptism was only for believing adults.

It was “radical” because every branch of Christianity up to that point practiced infant baptism – Orthodox, Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Anglicans. They pointed to:

- Acts 16:15: *Lydia was baptized along with all her household.*
- Acts 16:33: *That same hour... (Paul’s jailer) and all his family were baptized.*
- I Corinthians 1:16: *I baptized the family of Stephanas.*

Baptists did not baptize by immersion until many years later. They baptized by pouring water over the head of the believing adult three times, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. Rejection of all things _____.

- Rejection of all liturgy in worship.
- Rejection of robes and vestments for the clergy.
- Rejection of all symbolic acts and gestures.

- Removal of the altar from their churches.
- Communion was seen only as an act of remembrance rather than a sacrament by which God bestows His grace upon us.
- Rejection of The Lord's Prayer because they regarded it as an example of the vain repetition of words and made them sound too "Catholic."
- Rejection of Ash Wednesday, Lent, Advent, and Christmas services.

Because Baptists were persecuted in England and in the American Colonies, Baptists have been strong and vocal supporters of the separation of Church and State.

Baptists Today

Numbers

- 45 million Baptists of various types around the world.
- 33 million Baptists in the United States.

Organization

- Each local church is autonomous.
- They do not answer to a bishop or any outside authority.
- They do affiliate with other like-minded Baptists in "conventions."

Theology

- Liberal to Fundamentalist.

Southern Baptist Beliefs

- Generally agree on the essentials of the faith as described in both the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed, but they do not make use of the creeds.
- "The Baptist Faith and Message" is their statement of faith.

Disagreements

- Most Protestants believe that the Scriptures are inspired by God and are the primary guide to faith and practice.
- Southern Baptists go further saying the Bible contains truth "without any mixture of error...therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy." This means that if the Bible appears to be at odds with science, history or mathematics, then those theories must be wrong.
- United Methodists hold to a high view of Scripture. We believe the Scriptures are inspired by God and "contains all things necessary to salvation." We make no claim regarding its scientific accuracy, but in matters of faith the Scriptures reveal to us everything we need in order to know Jesus Christ as our Savior.