

OHANA BAPTIST CHURCH

Doctrinal Studies

Ecclesiology



I. The Definition of the Church

A. Origin of the word “church”

1. The **English** word “church” comes from the Greek word “kuriakon”

I Cor. 11:20, Rev. 1:10

- a. “Kuriakon” means “**belonging to the Lord**”
 - b. It was used by the Greek Christians to designate the meeting place for the church.
2. The primary Greek word for the church is “ecclesia”:
 - a. *ek out of* *kaleo to call*
 - b. It denotes a **group** or **assembly** of persons called out, selected, chosen and separated from a larger, more general group of people.
 - c. As adapted by Christianity it designates an assembly **called** out from the **world**

B. Uses of the word “ecclesia”

1. The word *ecclesia* is found **115** times in the New Testament.
2. **110** times the word refers to the church.
3. 3 times it refers to a gathered assembly of **heathen** Acts 19:32, 39, 41
4. 2 times it is used in a Jewish sense as applied to ancient **Israel** as God’s assembled, chosen people. Acts 7:38, Heb. 2:12
5. 90 times *ecclesia* is used to refer to the **local** church.
6. The **Gospels** use the word “church” only 3 times.

II. The Nature of the Church (Figures and Metaphors)

A. Words used for members of the church.

1. **Saints** Eph. 1:1. “**Set-apart, holy**”
2. **Believers** Acts 2:44
3. Those of the **way** Acts 9:2, Acts 19:9, 23. (Jn. 14:6, Mt. 7:13-14)
4. **Disciples** Acts 6:1, 9:1. “**Discipline**”
5. Christians Acts 11:26, 26:28, I Pet. 4:16
6. **Elect** of God Rom. 8:33, Col. 3:12, II Tim. 2:10
7. Brethren I Jn 2:10, 11, 3:14; Col. 4:9, I Tim. 6:2; Rom. 12:1

8. **Priests** I Pet. 2:5 & 9
 - a. Sacrifice of **self** Rom. 12:1-2
 - b. Sacrifice of **giving** Phil. 4:18
 - c. Sacrifice of **praise** Heb. 13:15
 - d. Sacrifice of doing **good** and to communicate (**fellowship**) Heb. 13:16

B. Word **pictures** of the church.

1. The **body** of Christ. Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4,12, 16; Eph. 5:30, I Cor. 12:12-31
 - a. Teaches **unity** Rom. 12:4,5; Eph. 4:11-13
 - b. Teaches **diversity** I Cor. 12:14-18
 - c. Teaches **mutuality** Rom. 12:5
 - d. Teaches the relation of the body to the **head**
 - 1) Jesus is the **head** of the church. Eph. 5:23-24
 - 2) Jesus is the **source** of life to the body. Col. 1:18, 2:19, 3:4
2. The **temple** of God
 - a. The **foundation**
 - 1) Built by the apostles on **Jesus Christ** I Cor. 3:10,11
 - 2) The Apostles and prophets are those who **laid** the foundation in the **Word** of God. Eph. 2:20
 - b. The **cornerstone** is Jesus. Eph. 2:20-21
 - c. The stones or building blocks are **believers** I Pet. 2:5
 - Lithos = **worked** stones (I Pt. 2:5) Sunarmologeo = to fit closely together
3. The **Bride** of Christ.
 - a. Teaches the love of the **Bridegroom** (Christ). Eph. 5:22-23
 - b. Teaches the submission of the **bride** (the church) . Eph. 5:24
 - c. Illustrates the present commitment and the future **relationship**
 - 1) The church is **presented** as betrothed. II Cor. 11:2
 - 2) The marriage will occur in heaven after the **rapture** Rev. 19:7-9 (*The Rapture is pictured as part of the marriage ceremony. Mt. 25:1-13, Jn 14:1-2*)
4. The Flock Jn 10:16, Acts 20:28, I Pet. 5:2-4
 - a. The flock is **believers**
 - b. The **Chief** Shepherd is Christ.
 - c. The under shepherds are the elders (**Pastors**)
5. The Vine and the branches Jn. 15

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a. Abide for **nourishment**

b. Abide for **fruit**

III. The Distinctiveness of the Church

A. The church is distinct from **Israel** Eph. 2:11-16

1. This concept was a **mystery** Eph. 3:2-5, Col. 1:25-26, Rom. 11:25

2. The church was made up of **both** Jews and Gentiles. Eph. 3:5-6, I Cor. 10:32

3. Israel (the Jews) needed to get **saved** Rom. 9:3-4

B. The church has a distinct time: Pentecost to the **rapture** Mt. 16:18, Eph. 1:10

C. The church is distinct from the **kingdom** Acts 1:6-7, 11

IV. The **Purpose** of the Church. Matt. 16:18-19

A. Provoke Israel to **jealousy** Rom. 11:11

B. The display of God's **grace** (Eph. 2:7) and wisdom Eph. 3:6,10

C. Prepare **rulers** for the kingdom. Rom. 8:17, I Cor. 6:2-4

D. **Evangelize** the world. Matt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15, Acts 1:8, (Acts 8:4)

E. **Edify** (Eph. 4:16) & **purify** (Eph. 5:26-27) a peculiar people. Tit. 2:14

1. **Teaching** Mt. 28:19-20, Eph. 4:11-14

2. Preaching II Tim. 4:1-2

3. Fellowship (**accountability**) Heb. 10:24-25

F. **Glorify** God. Eph. 1:11-14, I Pet. 1:9

V. The **Power** of the Church Matt. 28:18-20, I Thess. 1:5, II Tim. 1:7

A. The **Holy Spirit** Acts 1:8

B. The **Gospel** Rom. 1:16, I Cor. 1:18, 24

C. Our **unity** Acts 2:46-47, 4:32-33; Matt. 18:18-20, I Cor. 5:4

D. Our **love** Jn. 13:35

VI. The Organization of the Church I Tim. 3:15

A. A local church is a **group** of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and have **organized** for the purpose of doing God's will.

B. Evidences of organization

1. They knew the **number** of members. Acts 2:41
2. They had regular, **orderly** public worship and prayer meetings. I Cor. 14:40, II Thess. 3:6-7
3. They practiced the **ordinances** (Acts 2:41-42) & collected **offering** I Cor. 16:1-2
4. They administrated common **property** Acts 4:32
5. They exercised church **discipline** I Cor. 5:4-5
6. They had **pastors** (Acts 14:23) and **deacons** Acts 6:1-7 with requirements for both offices. I Tim. 3:1-13

C. **Membership** of the church

1. Necessity of membership
 - a. **Commanded** Heb. 10:24-25
 - b. **Needed** Eph. 4:11-14
 - c. **Practiced** in the New Testament. Acts 2:41-42, 20:7; I Cor. 14:19,23,28,
2. Qualification for Membership
 - a. **Regeneration** Acts 2:47, Rom. 1:7, I Cor. 1:2
 - b. **Baptism** Acts 2:41
3. Admission to Membership
 - a. Salvation and **baptism** Acts 2:41
 - b. **Letter** of recommendation. Rom. 16:1-2
 - c. Statement of **faith** Acts 19:1-5
4. Dismissal from membership
 - a. **Death**
 - b. By **letter** Acts 18:27, Col. 4:10
 - c. By exclusion or church **discipline** Matt. 18:15-17, I Co. 5:1-5, II Co. 2:5-11

D. **Government** of the church

1. Wrong forms of church government
 - a. **Episcopal** form of government
 - 1) Hierarchy of **Bishops** and other church leaders
 - 2) Examples.- Catholic, Anglican, Episcopalian, Methodist
 - b. **Presbyterian** form of government
 - 1) **Committees** of church leaders and laymen run the church. Often have Elders
 - 2) Examples – Lutheran, UCC
- **Demominational** organization

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2. Congregational form of government

- a. Theistic democracy *The authority of the church rests in the members of the church as led by the Holy Spirit.*
 - 1) *Indigenous*; each church is self-governing self-supporting and self-propagating
 - 2) *Autonomous*; each local church has the right or power of self government
- b. Biblical basis of Congregational church government
 - 1) Christ is the only head of the church as a whole
 - 2) The Pastor is the under-shepherd. I Pe. 5:2, Acts 20:28
 - a) The pastor is to rule I Tim. 5:17, Heb. 13:17
 - b) To lead by example I Tim. 4:12-16
 - c) The deacons are not a governing board, but servants Acts 6:2-5
 - 3) Each member is equally indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I Cor. 6:19
 - 4) Each individual believer is a priest (I Pet. 2:5,9) before God and has direct access to God through Christ. Heb. 10:19-22
 - 5) God gave authority to the believers gathered in His name. Mt. 18:18-20
- c. Biblical evidence of congregational church government
 - 1) The church chooses it's officers Acts 6:3-5
 - 2) The church is responsible for correct doctrine and practice I John 4:1, I Thess. 5:21, I Cor. 11:18, 23
 - 3) Church discipline rests with the local church. Matt. 18:15-17, II Ths. 3:6, 14-15, I Cor. 5:1-7
- d. Biblical practice of congregational church government. Acts 15:25
 - 1) Led by the Holy Spirit Acts 13:2
 - 2) After much prayer Acts 13:2-3
 - 3) In a spirit of unity Acts 23:44-47, 4:32; I Cor. 12:25
 - a) Sharing the benefit of our gifts and knowledge. I Cor. 12:12-20 Rom. 12:3-8

- b) **Private** discussion, not public opposition. Matt. 18:15
 - c) **Orderly** and without confusion or conflict I Co 14:33, 40, Ga 6:1
- 4) **Submission** to Pastoral leadership under God Heb. 13:7, 17-18; I Th. 5:12-13; I Tim. 5:17; I Pet. 5:1-4
- 3. Biblical basis for church cooperation and **fellowship** I Co. 1:2-3
 - a. Our **common** faith. Eph. 4:5, II Pet. 1:1, Jude 1:3
 - b. Sharing of Apostolic **letters** Col. 4:16
 - c. Mutual support and reception of **evangelists** (I Cor. 16:12, III Jn 5-8) and **missionaries** (II Cor. 11:9, Rom. 15:24, Phil. 4:15)
 - d. Cooperation in church **discipline** II Jn. 1:9-11
 - e. **Financial** aid and help. I Cor. 16:1, Rom. 15:26
- 4. Conclusion:
 - a. *No detailed legalistic organizational pattern is demanded in the New Testament for the local church, but it is clear that churches are to have an orderly, congregational form of church government independent of outside control.*
 - b. *The state requires that the church, as a legal entity, have an organizational structure of membership, decision making and business practices. These requirements are within the states' authority (Rom. 13:1) and should be followed by the church as long as they do not contradict God's Word. (Acts 5:29)*

E. **Officers** of the Church

- 1. General Leaders Eph 4:11
 - a. Apostle, "One **sent** forth"
 - 1) **Witness** of the resurrection Acts 1:22
 - 2) **Seen** the Lord I Cor 9:1
 - 3) **Chosen** by the Lord Lk 6:13, Rm 1:1
 - 4) Evidenced in **ministry** I Cor 9:2, Heb 2:3-4
 - b. Prophet I Cor 13:8-9 **Not same today. More like today's evangelist**
 - c. Evangelist II Tim 4:5, Acts 21:8
- 2. Pastor
 - a. Bible names for the office of Pastor
 - 1) **Elder** (*presbuteros*) teaches the Jewish concept of the dignity and respect of the office. Acts 20:17, Tit 1:5, I Pet 5:1

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- a) Age - not a **novice** (I Tim 3:6-7), but not necessarily **old** in age. I Tim 4:12
 - b) Rank - shows the **authority** of the position. Heb. 3:17
 - 2) **Bishop** (*episkopos*) teaches the responsibility of being an overseer of the church. Acts 20:28, Ti 1:7, I Pet 5:2
 - a) Responsibility of **leadership** I Tim. 5:17, 3:4-5
 - b) Responsibility of **teaching** I Tim. 4:12-16, 3:2
 - 3) **Pastor** (*poimen*) teaches the concept of the Pastor as the shepherd of the church. Eph 4:11, Acts 20:28
 - a) To **feed** the flock. I Pet. 5:1-3
 - b) To **lead (guide)** the flock. Acts 8:31
 - 4) **Minister** (*diakonos*) teaches the necessity of being a servant to the church. Acts 20:24, I Yim. 4:5 (Mt. 23:11-12, I Pet. 5:1-3)
 - a) Servant of **Christ** I Tim. 4:6
 - b) Servant of **people** Rm. 15:16
 - b. Description of the office of Pastor
 - 1) Called by the **Holy Spirit** (Acts 20:28) and **recognized** (*ordained*) by man. I Tim 4:14, Tit 1:5
 - 2) The position of a pastor is an **office** where a gift or gifts are practiced. Eph 4:11, I Cor 12:4-6
 - 3) The Bible allows for a **plurality** of elders (Acts 14:23) with one **ruling** elder. I Tim 5:17
 - c. Qualifications for the office of Pastor. I Tim 3:1-7, Tit 1:5-9
 - *These qualifications are accumulative not exclusive.*
 - 1) Desire the office - **stretch** forward to
 - 2) Blameless - without **handles**
 - 3) Husband of one wife - *A one-**woman** man* Job 31:1, Mt 5:27-28, Eph 5:25,28, Tit. 1:6

- a) Single. I Co.7:6,9
- b) Not a woman. I Tim. 2:11,12
- c) Polygamy or divorce. Mt. 5:31-32, I Co. 7:15
- 4) Vigilant - *Not under the influence, always alert* I Pet 5:8, I Tim. 3:11 - sober
- 5) Sober - *sound mind, self-controlled*
- 6) Good behavior - *Orderly* I Cor 14:40, I Tim 3:15
- 7) Given to hospitality - *love of strangers* Rm 12:13, I Pet 4:9
- 8) Apt to teach - *skilled at and enjoy teaching.* II Tim 2:24, 2:2
 - Holding fast the faithful Word Tit 1:9
 - a) sound doctrine I Tim 4:13-16
 - b) exhort = encourage Tit. 2:12
 - c) convince = conviction Tit. 1:9
- 9) Not given to wine Rm 14:17,21; Pr 23:19-21, 29-34; Eph 5:18, I Tim 5:23
- 10) No striker - *to strike out at verbally, emotionally or physically*
- 11) Not greedy of filthy lucre (base gain) ex. Jn 12:6
- 12) Patient - *gentle, reasonable, willing to consider the facts* Jas 3:17
- 13) Not a brawler - *not a fighter, macho* Rm 12:18
- 14) Not covetous - *not a lover of money* I Tim 6:10, Heb 13:5, Phil 4:11. [Cp. #11](#)
- 15) Ruleth well his own house - *to stand before as an officer leading into battle*
Rm 12:8, I Tim 5:17
- 16) Children in subjection with all gravity (dignity) - *a military term meaning to rank under*
- 17) Not a novice - *newly planted*
- 18) A good report of them which are without I Pet 3:15-16, Rm 15:1-2
- 19) Grave - *seriousness of purpose self-respect in conduct, inspires respect*
Tit 1:6-9
- 20) Not accused - public accusation I Tim 5:19
 - a) riot - wasteful living
 - b) unruly - *not subject to rules, above the rules*
- 21) Steward - faithful to his ministry I Cor 4:1-2, II Tim 4:7
- 22) Not self willed - *self-pleasing, arrogantly asserts his own will, opposite of gentle* II Pt 2:10, I Pet 5:3
- 23) Not soon angry - *not passionate, controls his emotions* Eph 4:30-32

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- 24) Lover of good men II Tim 3:3. Who does he honor?
- 25) Just - *righteous, right-wise, do what is right*
- 26) Holy - *right religiously*
- 27) Temperate - *exercise self-control I Cor 8:10-13*
- d. Responsibility of the office of the Pastor
- 1) Preach the Word. II Tim. 4:1-2
 - a) Reprove - what we should not do.
 - b) Rebuke - what we should do.
 - c) Exhort - encourage to do what is right
 - 2) Teach the Word. I Tim. 4:11, 3:2
 - 3) Rule (I Tim. 5:17, Rom. 12:8) and oversee the church .I Pt. 5:2, Acts 20:28
 - 4) Train others for the ministry. II Tim. 2:1-2
 - 5) To be a servant Rom. 15:16, I Tim. 4:6
 - 6) To minister Acts 6:2,4
 - 7) Etc. Counselor, janitor, repairman, etc. -
- e. The church's responsibility to the Pastor.
- 1) To know and esteem him. I Th. 5:12-13
 - 2) Remember and follow him. Heb. 13:7 (I Co. 11:1, Phil. 4:9)
 - 3) Obey and submit to Pastoral leadership. Heb. 13:17
 - 4) Pray for him. Heb. 13:18, Eph. 6:18-19 (21)
 - 5) Give honor to him. I Tim. 5:17
 - 6) Support him financially. I Tim. 5:18, Heb. 13:16, Gal 6:6
3. Deacon
- a. Definition: *diakonos* – servant, minister. Mt. 23:11-12
 - 1) Christ Phil. 2:5-7, Mt. 20:26-28, Jn. 13:13-17
 - 2) Pastor I Tim. 4:6, II Tim. 4:5
 - 3) Christians Jn. 12:26
 - b. Deacon's purpose

- 1) He is a **servant** Mt. 23:11-12, 20:26-28
 - a) **Free** the Pastor. Acts 6:2,4
 - b) Should already be **serving**
- 2) He is a **leader**
 - a) By **example** Acts 6:3-5, I Tim. 3:6-13
 - b) By **action** Acts 6:8, 8:5,26
- 3) He is an **advisor** Prov. 15:22
- c. Deacon's qualifications. I Tim. 3:6-13
 - 1) Good and **honest** report. Acts 6:3,7; II Co. 6:3-4, (I Pt. 3:15-16, Rom. 15:1-2)
 - 2) Grave = **dignity**, seriousness of purpose, inspires **respect**
 - 3) Not doubled – tongued. **Gossip, cursing, lieing, good converstation Jam. 3:1-12**
 - 4) Not given to wine. Rom. 14:17,21
 - 5) Not **greedy** Mt. 6:21
 - 6) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
 - a) **Learners** II Tim. 2:2, Heb. 5:11-14
 - b) **Study** II Tim. 2:15, Acts 17:11
 - c) **Counselor** Col. 4:6
 - 7) Proved (not a **novice** vs. 6)
 - 8) Use the office of Deacon well I Pt. 4:10-11, Rom. 12:3-8
Wives Tit. 2:3-5
 - a) Grave. *Same as #2*
 - b) *Not slanderers (devils, accusers)*
 - c) **Faithful** to husband, children, church, and Saviour
 - 9) Husband of one wife - literally: “a **one** woman man”
 - a) Negatively Mt. 5:27-28, Job 31:1
 - b) Positively Eph. 5:25,28
 - 10) Used the office well. I Co. 16:15, Col. 4:17
- d. Questions to ask:
 - 1) Are you confident in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord?
 - 2) Are you sincerely trying to live a Spirit - controlled life to the best of your ability?

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- 3) Do you feel led of the Lord to serve as a Deacon? Have you already been serving and will you continue to serve whether chosen or not?
 - 4) Do you understand that the Deacon's ministry is that of service and counsel to the body of Christ, not authority?
 - 5) Are you prepared to submit yourself first to the Lord, then to His people, and finally to the Pastor and other leaders with whom you will work?
 - 6) Do you support the local church with at least a tithe (10%) and Missions offering (at least 10% of your tithe)?
 - 7) Do you agree with the tenets of faith and governing principles and practices of this church? Is there any area which you disagree with or have a problem?
 - 8) Do you live a life that is consistent with the Word of God as pertains to morality, conversation, life-style, and appearance? Is there any specific habit or practice in your life that may bring offense to the Gospel or this Church?
 - 9) Do you conduct your home life in a way that meets with the demands of scripture? Is there any problem with your relationship with your wife or children that would affect your testimony in the church?
 - 10) Are you committed to the soul-winning/visitation program of the church? Are you and will you continue to be actively involved in these weekly outreach?
 - 11) Do you have a problem with changing any area of your life, if asked to, in order to serve in this position?
 - 12) Are you committed to being at all regularly scheduled services and activities of the church, unless providentially hindered?
 - 13) If chosen, will you serve as a deacon in an attitude of love, unity, and faith?
4. Other Scriptural positions of service in the church
- a. **Teachers** Eph. 4:11
 - b. **Preacher boys** II Tim. 2:1-2, Acts 16:1-3, Acts 13:5
 - c. **Widows** I Tim. 5:3-16
 - d. **Servant** Rom. 16:1-2, Phil. 4:2-3

5. Miscellaneous positions of service: Greeters (Phil. 4:21, ushers (Psa. 84:10), music ministry (I Chrn. 15:16), nursery (I Co. 15:51, Children (Mt. 19:14), A/V (Rom. 10:17)

VII. The Ordinances of the Church

A. Definitions

1. Sacrament

- a. Derived from the Latin *sacramentum* which was applied to anything **sacred**
- b. The word has the idea of a magical conferral of **grace** to the participant.

2. Ordinance

- a. Derived from the Latin *ordo* meaning **ordered**
- b. Ordinances emphasis the fact that the rights of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were **ordered** by the Lord.
- c. The emphasis is an obedience to the practicing of these ordinances as a **remembrance**
- d. Sacraments practiced in some churches include: Baptism (infant), communion, marriage
- e. Practice of the Lord's supper
 - 1) As oft as you **will**. I Co. 11:26
 - 2) Who can participate? I Co.11:27-32
 - 3) Open, closed or **close**

B. Baptism

1. Christian baptism finds its precedent in the **Jewish** proselyte baptism and the Baptism of **John**
2. Christian Baptism was not just an **extension** of these. Acts 19:1-5
3. Evidences for the necessity of Baptism
 - a. **Commanded** by Christ Mt 28:19-20
 - b. Christ's **example** to us Mt 3:13-17
 - c. **Practiced** by New Testament Christians Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12
 - d. **Explained** in the Epistles Rm 6:3-5, Col 2:12
4. The meaning of Baptism
 - a. Threefold picture Rom. 6:3-5, Col. 2:12
 - 1) Past - Christ's death, burial, and **ressurrection**
 - 2) Present - My **salvation**

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- 3) Future - Resurrection of our **body**
 - b. Pictures our **unity** in the body. I Cor. 12:12-13
 - c. First step of **obedience** I Pet. 3:21
 5. Is baptism necessary for salvation?
 - a. Baptism is a **work** (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - b. Salvation is often taught without mention of baptism Acts 15:9 Eph. 3:17, Gal. 2:20 etc.
 - c. **Paul** did not baptize many. I Cor. 1:14-17
 6. Problems with Baptism
 - a. **Works** baptism Acts 2:37-38
 - b. **Infant** baptism. – No Bible verses because there are none
 - c. **Household** baptism Acts 16:30-32
 7. Mode of Baptism: Immersion
 - a. *Baptizo* - to **dip** or **immerse**
 - b. Bible example Jn. 3:23, Acts 8:36
 - c. **Symbolism** I Pt. 3:21
 - d. Historical – Jewish example, church history, Greek Orthodox
- C. The Lord's Supper
1. The **Names** of the Lord's Supper
 - a. **Lord's** Supper -- I Cor. 11:20
 - b. Communion -- I Cor. 10:16
 - c. Eucharist (giving of **thanks**) -- I Cor. 11:24
 - d. Breaking of **bread** -- Acts 2:42, 20:7
 - e. Lord's **table** -- I Cor. 10:21
 2. The **institution** of the Lord's Supper
 - a. Instituted by **Christ** Matt. 26:26-29, Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:17-20
 - b. **Practiced** by the early church. Acts 2:42,46
 - c. **Explained** by Paul in the Epistles. I Cor. 11:23-26
 3. The **teaching** of the Lord's Supper

- a. A **memorial** of Christ -- Lk. 22:19, I Cor. 11:24-25
 - 1) A remembrance of the **person** of Christ.
 - 2) A remembrance of the **death** of Christ. I Cor. 11:26, Mk. 14:24
 - b. A **prophecy** of the second coming of Christ. Mt. 26:29, I Co. 11:26

"Till He come."
 - c. A reminder for personal judgment and **confession** by the believer.

I Cor. 11:28-32
4. The efficacy of the Lord's Supper
- a. Non-Baptist views
 - 1) Transubstantiation (Romanism) The bread changes to the actual **body** of Christ, and the wine to the actual **blood** of Christ.
 - 2) Consubstantiation (Lutheranism) - Omnipresence of body and blood are placed **upon** the bread and wine giving it sacramental value.
 - 3) Spiritual Presence (Reformed) - Christ is present in a special way - **grace** is received.
 - b. Baptist view
 - 1) No grace is **magically** or **supernaturally** conveyed in any way.
 - 2) Blessings, that come from this act of obedience:
 - a) Remembrance of what Christ did for us
 - b) Close **fellowship** with Christ
 - c) Close fellowship with other **Christians**
 - d) **Assurance** of salvation
 - e) Anticipation of the **second** coming
5. Participants of the Lord's Supper
- a. **Believers** - Acts 2:41-42. [Closed, open & close](#)
 - b. **Examined** and found in right relationship with Christ (including **Baptism** by immersion) -- I Cor. 11:28-32
 - c. **Assembled** church members
6. **Procedure** for the Lord's Supper. I Cor. 11
- a. Prayer of thanksgiving over the elements.
 - b. The distribution of the bread and cup to all.
 - c. The recalling of the words of Jesus explaining the bread and cup as representative of His body and blood in sacrifice for His people and inviting them to "take" and "eat".

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- d. Eating and drinking the elements.
- e. The person who should administer the Lord's Supper is not mentioned, but would normally be the leader of the church.
- 7. **Elements** for the Lord's Supper
 - a. Bread and wine (cup) are the two elements.
 - b. The emphasis in Scripture is not on the nature of the bread and wine, but rather upon their symbolic significance.
- 8. **Frequency** of observance of the Lord's Supper.
 - a. No specific direction is given in the New Testament. "As oft as ye..."
 - b. It is implied that it was done regularly and frequently in the early church

WHAT IS A BAPTIST?

I. Baptists

A. Baptists are not **Protestants**

- 1. Protestants began with the *protests* of the excesses of the Catholic church during the **reformation** . (1500's)
- 2. Baptists were originally called AnaBaptist or **rebaptizers** because of their requirement for baptism after salvation.
- 3. Most church historians trace a "Baptist" church back to the **first** century. (*Montanists, Novatians, Donatists, Waldensians*)
- 4. Baptists do not have a **human** founder.
- 5. Baptists have historically held to and fought for freedom of **religion** for everyone.

B. Baptists are **Bible** believers

- 1. Place a strong emphasis on **doctrine**
- 2. Practice individual **liberty** and responsibility.
- 3. Form **independent** local churches.
- 4. Live **seperated** lives.

Biblical authority in all matters of faith and practice. - We do not need visions, new revelations, tongues, or any other extra Biblical “messages from God.” We just need to study and know the Revelation that He has already given.

Autonomy or self-governing power of the local church. - Our church is completely self-governed outside of any denominational organization. We operate as a church body as led by the Holy Spirit.

Priesthood of believers. - Every believer has equal and instant access to God. There is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Two ordinances. - We practice two simple ordinances. - Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These ordinances have no part in salvation and only serve as pictures and reminders of what Christ did for us.

Individual Soul Liberty. - Every man, woman, and child must choose personally to come to Christ for salvation through His shed blood.

Security of the believer. - Salvation is a gift from God that cannot be taken away. Nothing can separate the believer from eternal life in Christ and he can have full assurance of Heaven as his future home.

Two offices within the local church. - Our Church has two Biblical offices of leadership - Pastors and Deacons. It is the responsibility of the Pastor to serve the church by leading, teaching, and overseeing the church. It is the responsibility of the deacons to serve the church family through assisting with care and provision for special needs.

Separation of church and state. - The state should have no power to intervene in the free expression of religious liberty. Separation doesn’t mean that Christians should not influence the state but that the church should not control the state nor should the state control the church.

** Any church that practices and believes these things is still Baptist by another name.*

I. Independent Baptists Acts 5:29

- A. There is no organization or **authority** outside the local church in scripture.
- B. Each church is independent of **governmental** and ecclesiastical control.
- C. No formal membership in a convention or religious **organization** is taught in Scripture.
 - 1. Cooperation and fellowship with churches of like faith and **practice** is taught and encouraged.
 - 2. Some Independent Baptist Churches belong to fellowships. (BBF, GARBC, IFCA)
- D. The emphasis is on autonomous (**self – governing**) local churches./

II. Fundamental Baptist Jude 1:3-4

- A. Fundamental in their **beliefs** and practices. Isa. 8:20
 - 1. Fundamentalist - The Bible is the **only** rule for faith and practice.
 - 2. Liberal - The Bible is **one** rule for faith and practice.
 - a. **Deny** the supernatural elements in the Bible
 - b. Preach and practice a **social** gospel
 - 3. New-Evangelical - The Bible is **the** rule for faith and practice.
 - a. An Evangelical believes in the need for Evangelism.

II Tim. 3:14-17, II Pet. 1:19

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- b. A New- Evangelical wants to bridge the gap between Liberals and Evangelicals (ex. II Chr. 18:1-19:2) through **eccumenicism** and **compromise**
- “*What matters is a heart attitude of complete love and trust in Christ, regardless of how you live the outward life.*” I Pt.1:15-16
- c. Seven characteristics of a New-Evangelical
- 1) “A fresh understanding of the reliability and authority of the **Scriptures**
 - 2) “A reinterpretation of Biblical infallibility and inerrancy and acceptance of **higher** criticism.”
 - 3) “Emphasis on meaningful sanctification rather than on a **legalistic** code of conduct following the new birth.”
 - 4) “A marked aversion to **dispensationalism** and detailed eschatological speculation.”
 - 5) “Fresh interest in a **social** Gospel as opposed to Biblical evangelism.”
 - 6) “Freer religious dialogue and cooperation with Evangelicals, **Catholics** and even non-Christians.”
 - 7) “Increasing friendliness to modern science and mounting acceptance of Theistic **evolution** in some form.”
- “Redeeming worship centers on the Lord’s Table. Whether your tradition celebrates it as Communion, Eucharist, the Mass, or the Lord’s Supper, we are all called to this centerpiece of Christian worship” Dr. Jack Hayford
 - “God wants to bring Christian men together regardless of their ethnic origin, denominational background, or style of worship. There’s only one criterion for this kind of unity: to love Jesus and be born of the Spirit of God. Can we look one another in the eye-black, white, red, brown, yellow, Baptist, Presbyterian, Assemblies of God, Catholic, and so on- and get together on this common ground: ‘We believe in salvation through Christ alone, and we have made Him the Lord of our lives’.” Bill McCartney
 - “I think everybody who knows Christ, whether they are conscious of it or not, they’re members of the body of Christ...God’s purpose for this age is to call out a people for His name, whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world, or the non-believing world, they are members of the Body of Christ, because they’ve been called by God. They may not even know in their hearts that they need something that they don’t have, and I think they turn to the only light they have, and I think that they are saved, and that they are going to be in Heaven with us.” Billy Graham
- B. Separatist by **action** II Cor. 6:14-17

1. Personal separation in **standards** Rom. 12:1-2, Eph. 5:11
 2. Ecclesiastical separation in **fellowship & cooperation** II Co. 6:14-18
 - a. **Mark** them Rom. 16:17, Phil. 3:15-19
 - b. **Seperate** from them II Th. 3:6, II Th. 3:14-15 (II Tim. 2:24-25 cp. Jas. 1:19-20)
 - c. **Reprove** them Eph. 5:11, II Jn. 10-11
 - d. **Counter** them Tit. 1:9-11, 13, 3:10-11
 3. Spiritual separation unto **Christ** Gal. 2:20
- III. Dangers of being and Independent Fundamental Baptist
- **Legalism** Col. 2:20-23
 - **Phariseism** Luke 18:9-14
 - **Fighting** spirit James 1:19-20
- A. Personalities I Co. 1:10-17, 3:3-6
1. **People** I Co. 11:1.
 2. **Organizations**
- *We can share our collective perspectives (Acts 15:2, 6, 15) without giving up our distinctiveness (Gal. 2:5)*
3. **Traditions** II Th. 3:6
 - a. We need to take a stand for the traditions of the **Word** II Th. 2:15
 - b. Not the traditions of **men** Mt. 15:2-3, 6
- B. Personal Acts 15:36-40
1. Agree to **disagree**
 - a. Paul had to repent. II Tim. 4:11
 - b. God gives us different **ministries** Gal. 2:7-9
 2. There is a time to take a **stand** . Gal. 2:11-17
 - a. With a right **attitude** II Tim. 2:24-26
 - b. Desire for **repentance** II Pt. 3:8-9, 15-16
 - c. Not questioning **motive** Phil. 1:12-18
- C. Person (of Christ) Heb. 12:1-2
1. We are all **followers** of Christ. I Co. 11:1
 2. For **His** glory not man's I Co. 1:27-31

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HOW TO FIND A CHURCH

1. Look for identifying words in their advertising.
 - a. **Independent** - Some denominational churches will be independent in their beliefs and practices.
 - b. **Fundamental or Biblicist**- You want a church that takes a strong stand on the fundamentals of the faith and is not ashamed to do so.
 - c. **Bible believing and/or Bible preaching** - Is their emphasis on the Word of God and not a creed or covenant or man's wisdom?
 - d. **Baptist** - You want a church that is Baptist in polity if not in name also. Many "Bible" churches are also Baptist.
 - e. Use caution with churches that have unusual names (i.e. - City of Refuge, Church of Perfect Liberty) as these are usually charismatic.
 - f. Independent churches that are non-denominational may be good, but churches that identify themselves as interdenominational usually are not.
 - g. Watch out for catch-phrases like "spirit-filled", "Kingdom of God", "Charismatic", "Worship or praise music", etc.
2. What to look at when you visit a church.
 - a. Doctrinal Statement
 - b. Constitution
 - c. Programs - Soul winning, strong missions, Bible teaching
 - d. Promotional literature - What do they emphasize? How do they identify themselves?
 - *Do not look for an Ohana twin!*
3. Questions to help you.
 - a. What Bible(s) do you use in your services?
 - b. What colleges do you promote? *Pensacola Christian (PCC), West Coast (WCBC), Ambassador (ABC), Heartland Baptist College (HBC)*
 - c. What mission boards do you work with? *BIMI, BMM, WWNTBM, GFA, BWE*
 - d. Name some Evangelists that you have had. Ron Comfort, Paul Schwanke, Rich Touzer
 - e. What is the purpose of your church? *Glorify God, evangelism, edifying or teaching, fellowship, testimony, worship.*
4. What to look for in a church.
 - a. Strong Bible emphasis.
 - b. Evangelistic outreach.
 - c. Missions emphasis.
 - d. Attendance ratio between Sunday School/Sunday Morning/Sunday Evening and Midweek.
 - e. Pastor led with active deacons, not Board run.
 - f. Who or what is honored.

- g. Friendliness with emphasis on fellowship and accountability.
- h. Active prayer ministry.
- i. Obvious standards of personal separation and holiness, especially in the leadership
- j. A unity of purpose in the church.

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False Religions

I. Who they are

A. Definitions

1. **Religion**: An organized system of faith and worship developed and established by **men**. Acts 17:22-25
2. **Apostate**: An unsaved person who professed salvation, but turned away from the truth. I Jn. 2:18-19 (II Tim. 3:1-9) *“To stand away from”*
3. **Heretic**: A saved person who chooses to forsake the truth of God’s Word. Tit. 3:10-11, II Pt. 2:1 *“To choose”*
 - a. **Moral** failure I Co. 5:1-7
 - b. **False** teaching I Tim. 1:19-20, II Tim. 2:17-18
 - c. **Divisive** spirit I Co. 11:19-20, Gal. 5:19-20

B. Different types of Religious groups

1. **False** religions
2. **Cults**
3. **“Christian”** religions
4. **Denominations** or **sects**

C. Signs of a false religion or a cult

1. Leadership of **questionable** character
2. Belief in **extra-**Biblical revelation
3. Salvation through **works**
4. A **“class”** system in Heaven - *“Be as gods”*
5. Teaching the need to **“correct”** doctrine and teaching
6. Appeals to the emotions, pride, greed, etc. but not the **intellect**.
7. Overemphasis on one area of **truth** I Tim. 4:1-3
8. Hesitant to study the Bible but would rather **debate**

II. What they teach

A. Attitude towards the **Bible** Is. 8:20

1. Some will **add** to the Word of God Ps. 119:89, II Pt. 1:19-21
 2. Some **take** away from the Word of God II Tim. 3:16-17, Rev. 22:18-19 (Dt. 4:2, 12:32, Prov. 30:6)
 3. Some **change** the Word of God II Tim. 2:14-18, I Tim. 4:1-3
- B. Attitude towards **Christ** I Jn. 2:22-23 (Jn. 5:39, Jn. 17:17)
1. Make Him not fully **God** Jn. 1:1,14, 8:58, 10:30, 14:6,9
 2. Make Him not fully **man** I Jn. 4:1-3
 3. Make Him only a great **teacher** Mt. 16:13-17, 19:16-17
- C. Attitude towards the **substitutionary** death II Pt. 2:1
1. Salvation by **faith** alone Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 1:6-9
 2. Redemption through His shed **blood** I Pt. 1:18-19
Mt. 26:28, Acts 20:28, Rom. 5:8-9, Eph. 1:7, Heb. 9:22, 13:12,20, Rev. 1:5
- III. How they deceive I Kings 12:25-33, Mk. 13:22-23
- A. Strong **personalities** I Kg. 11:28, II Co. 11:13-15, II Pt. 2:1-3
1. God uses the **weak** (I Co.1:26-29) or He **humbles** them II Co.12:7,10
 2. Can start out **right** I Kg. 11:38, Acts 20:29-30 (II Pt. 2:20-22)
 3. Place themselves in God's **stead** I Kg. 12:33, I Tim. 2:5
 - *Sincere but sincerely **wrong** Mt. 16:22-23, Gal.2:11-14*
- B. Selfish **purposes** I Kg. 12:26, II Pt. 2:10-20
1. **Compromise** "*The error of Balaam*" Jude 11, II Pt. 2:15, Rev. 2:14 (Num. 22-24)
 2. **Covetousness** II Pt.2:3, 14
- C. Similar **principles** I Kg. 12:28, Is. 8:20
1. Having a form (**façade**) of Godliness II Tim. 3:5
 - a. Same words, different **meanings** Mt. 5:18
 - b. Same Bible, different **Lord** Jn. 1:1,14
 2. **Adds** to the Word of God Rev. 22:18
 - a. **Question** God's Word Gn. 3:1, 4-5
 - b. Add to God's Word Gn. 3:3
 - c. Take the Word out of **context** Mt. 4:6
 - d. **Challenge** the Word of God Mt. 16:21-23
 3. **Take** away from the Word of God Rev. 22:19
 - a. Reject or change inspired **revelation** Acts 10:15, II Pt. 1:19-21
 - b. Over emphasis on **parts** of the Word to the neglect of the rest. Lk. 11:42

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- D. Sinful **people** I Kg. 12:30, II Tim. 4:1-4
1. Lack of Spiritual **exercise** I Tim. 4:7-8
 2. Cults appeal to **emotions** pride, laziness, and greed but not **reason** and logic
 3. To become as **gods** Gn. 3:5, Is. 14:14, Ezk. 28:2
- E. Sordid **priests** I Kg. 12:31, I Ti. 3:1-7
1. Compromise **standards** for leadership I Kg. 13:33
 2. Changing God's **plan** for today I Tim. 3:15, Eph. 4:11-14
- F. Sacrificial **pollution** and Substitute **policies** I Kg. 12:32 - 33
1. Sacrifice without **obedience** I Sam. 15:22
 2. Substitute another **Gospel** Gal. 1:6-7
- G. Spiritual **prophets** and **policies** I Kg. 13:1, 18:17-18
1. **Watch** for yourselves II Jn. 8
 - a. Take a **stand** II Tim. 4:14-18, I Tim. 1:18-20
 - b. Be an **example** I Pt. 5:1-3, Rm. 15:1-2
 2. **Study** the Word II Tim. 2:14-18, I Tim. 4:13-16
 - a. Be ready with an **answer** I Pt. 3:15
 - b. **Contend** for the Faith Jude 3
 3. Try the **spirits** I Jn. 4:1
 4. Be **faithful** to a good church Eph. 4:11-14, I Tim. 4:1, 11, 16
 5. **Mark** and avoid them Rom. 16:17, Phil. 3:17-18, II Jn. 10-11
- IV. How to witness to someone in a false religion
- A. Your **mindset** Acts 17:16
1. You need to have a **burden** Ps. 126:5-6
 2. Be **respectful** Acts 17:22-23, Mt. 10:16, II Tim. 2:24
- B. Your **message**
1. Don't **debate** Acts 17:17. "Dispute" = dialog
 - a. False teachers enjoy **debate** I Tim. 6:4-5. "logomachia" = Words & fight
 - b. Don't **major** on the **minors** or **minor** on the **majors** Tit. 3:9

- c. Study the **Word** not their teachings II Tim. 2:15-18
- 2. Preach the **Gospel** Acts 17:18
 - a. It is not our **wisdom** but God's message that changes lives I Co. 1:17-21
 - b. They need to **understand** the Gospel I Co. 15:1-4
- 3. Call for a **decision** Acts 17:30-31, II Co. 6:2
- C. Your **method**
 - 1. Start from common **beliefs** Acts 17:22-23
 - *Use their own beliefs and practices as a starting point*
 - 2. Lay **foundations** Acts 17:24
 - a. Epicureans denied the **existence** of God
 - b. Stoics believed in Pantheism
 - 3. Emphasize their need to **seek** God Acts 17:27, Jn. 5:39, Jer. 33:3
 - 4. Counteract the emphasis on **works** Acts 17:25, Eph. 2:8-10
- D. Your **results** Acts 17:32-34