

# A BRIEF CATECHISM ON BAPTIST BELIEFS

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(To Be Committed to Memory.)

- 1. What is the Bible?**  
The Bible is God's inspired word.
- 2. What great things does the Bible teach us?**  
The Bible teaches about God and his will for us, and of the work of Jesus Christ, his Son.
- 3. What authority has the Bible?**  
Yes; we must do and believe exactly what the Bible teaches.
- 4. What does the Bible teach about God?**  
The Bible teaches that God is the holy and loving creator of the heavens and the earth; the One who rules and keeps the world he has made.
- 5. How did God most clearly show his love?**  
God showed his love by sending his Son Jesus to save us.
- 6. What did Jesus do for us by his death?**  
Jesus, by his death, made it right for God to forgive our sins, for we have all sinned and disobeyed God.
- 7. What does God do for us because of Jesus' death?**  
God freely forgives us, and by his Holy Spirit changes our hearts so that we love him and delight to do his will.

8. What must we do to be saved?  
We must repent of our sins and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour.
9. Can we be saved because of our parents?  
No; each soul must trust Jesus for itself.
10. May each soul do this?  
Yes; the Bible says whosoever will may come.
11. What is baptism?  
Baptism is the immersion in water of one who has believed in Jesus as his Saviour.
12. What is baptism for?  
Baptism is the way Jesus commanded each saved person to confess him before others.
13. Was Jesus immersed?  
Jesus was immersed, for that is what the word baptize means.
14. Did Jesus command us to be baptized?  
Jesus commanded all who believe in him to be immersed, as he was.
15. Does baptism save us?  
Baptism does not save us, but shows that we have already died to sin and been saved through Jesus' blood.
16. Should infants be baptized?  
Infants cannot believe, and so should not be baptized.
17. Is baptism necessary?  
Baptism is necessary to obedience, for Jesus commanded it.

18. Can there be more than one way to be baptized?  
Baptism and immersion mean the same thing, and so we can obey Jesus only by being immersed.
19. How should those who trust in Jesus live before the world?  
Those who trust in Jesus must seek to learn about God and his will; to love him with all the heart and soul and mind; to live a pure and godly life before God and men; and to do God's will in everything.
20. What is a church?  
A church is a company of baptized believers in Jesus who are joined together to do his will.
21. Is each church separate and independent?  
Yes; each church is to obey Jesus alone.
22. Who may be members of a church?  
Only believers in Jesus Christ, who have been baptized as he commanded, may be members of a church.
23. What officers should a church have?  
A pastor and deacons.
24. Who governs in a church?  
The members of the church govern its affairs in obedience to the will of Jesus.
25. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?  
The Lord's Supper was commanded by Jesus as a way to remember him and to show forth his death and second coming.
26. How does the Lord's Supper show Jesus' death?  
The broken bread and the poured wine represent the broken body and shed blood of Jesus.

27. **Why is it called the Lord's Supper?**  
Because Jesus himself commanded us to eat the bread and drink the wine in remembrance of him.
28. **Who should take part in this supper?**  
Only those who are members of the church observing the supper, and any true members of other churches of like faith and practice whom the church may invite, may take part in the Lord's Supper.
29. **Ought churches to be ruled by officials of the State?**  
No; each church is an independent body, and is for spiritual purposes only, and so is responsible only to Jesus Christ in matters of doctrine and worship.
30. **Ought our churches to receive money from the government?**  
No; the State has nothing to do with the support of religion.
31. **What was Jesus' last command?**  
Jesus' last command was, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
32. **What do we call this work which Jesus commanded?**  
The work of missions.
33. **Is it right for churches to join with each other in doing missionary work?**  
Yes; churches have the right to join with each other in doing work for Christ.
34. **Is it the duty of churches to take part in missionary work?**  
It is the duty of every church, and every member, to join in missionary work, for this is Christ's command.

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