

CHRISTIANITY

101

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

About

SIN & SALVATION
RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT

↑
HEAVEN

HELL
↓

THE NATURE OF MAN

◉ *The Nature of God* ◉

CHRISTIANITY 101

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CONSIDERATIONS:

- ▶ People who love God and His Word differ or disagree on these things.
- ▶ People who agree with us doctrinally disagree with our position on ecclesiastical separation.

- ▶ A denomination's original teachings may not be the same today.
- ▶ Some denominations have a wide disparity of views in their local congregations.

- ▶ We should approach this topic with one primary objective: What is the truth?
- ▶ We should approach this topic with one primary authority: The Word of God

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION?

- ▶ To be considered “Christian” a church must hold to some specific doctrines.

These are:

- ▶ The Virgin Birth. (Is. 7:14)
- ▶ The Deity (He is God) of Christ. (Heb. 1:8)
- ▶ The Godhead (Trinity). (1 John 5:7)

- ▶ Christ's vicarious atonement. This is the teaching that Jesus died on the cross in the place of the sinner. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)
- ▶ The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:4)

- ▶ Salvation by grace through faith alone and not of works. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
- ▶ The visible return of Jesus Christ. (1 Thes. 4:16-18)

WHAT IS A BAPTIST CHURCH?

- ▶ Baptist distinctives are those biblical doctrines that, when taught and obeyed in our churches, mark us as distinct from any other Christian sect.

- ▶ Baptist distinctives are those biblical doctrines we hold to that other denominations either neglect or distort.
- ▶ Some non-Baptist groups hold to one or more of our distinctives but only a Baptist church holds to all of them.

- ▶ Some churches call themselves Baptist but no longer believe the doctrines above nor the Baptist distinctives. While this type of church brings reproach on the Baptist name it does not change what a genuine Baptist believes.

- ▶ Why is the name important? Because as you will see, the name identifies a body of doctrine as well as method of ministry, both of which come directly from the pages of the Bible.

- ▶ **Bible as our Sole Authority.** (II Tim. 3:16-17; I Th. 2:13)

- ▶ **Autonomy of the Local Church.** (Col. 1:18)
- ▶ **Priesthood of the Believer.** (I Pet. 2:5; I Tim. 2:5)
- ▶ **Two Ordinances.** (I Cor. 11:1-2; Ac. 8:36-38; I Cor. 11:26)
- ▶ **Individual Soul Liberty.** (Rom. 14:5, 12; II Cor. 4:2; Ti. 1:9)
- ▶ **Saved Church Membership.** (Acts 2:41-47; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 4:3-6)
- ▶ **Two Offices (Pastor and Deacon).** (I Tim. 3:1-3; Ac. 6:1-7)
- ▶ **Separation of Church and State.** (Mt. 22:15-22; Ac. 15:17-29; I Tim. 3:14-15)

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- ▶ What are the differences between the major Christian denominations?

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