

# Are You a Baptist?

By: David A. Sargent

Someone said the Baptist Line does not exist however I disagree.

Being in a "Baptist" church and being a "Baptist" or being "baptistic" in doctrine are different things. If being a baptism is believing that water does not saved but is the first step in following the Lord in believer's baptism in water by emersion: Paul was a Baptist in that he was baptistic. It really does not matter when they or we were called Baptist as a name of a church. The Baptistic doctrines are found in the Bible. Even though John is called John the Baptist; that still does not follow believer's baptism because John's baptism was for the nation of Israel as the Lord's forerunner.

Baptist doctrine or being Baptistic:

1. We do NOT believe in baptismal regeneration but believer's baptism as a testimony to Spirit baptism and being washed in the blood and the death burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no saving merit in water baptism and water baptism is NOT a sacrament in any way connected with salvation.
2. We do believe in Eternal Security of the believer; that there is no way we can lose eternal life. Paul believed those things and taught them. That makes him a Baptist by practice or what we call Baptistic even if he was never actually called a Baptist. Eternal Security comes from Eternal, Everlasting Life that will NEVER perish and also with Save, Saved, Safe, Sealed, Secure and thus Security.

They were Christians from the time the first person was born again after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ when they believed on Christ. However, just because they were not called that until later did not make them not a follower of Christ which is what the term Christian means. Acts 11:26, "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Notice that they were called that; but the inference is not that they called themselves that. The lost people around them called them that. It was meant as a derogatory label to dissuade anyone else from becoming one of those cult members!

I don't remember anyone calling themselves or being called "bible believer" anywhere in the Bible; but that is what I call myself. I do this because the term "Christian" applies to so many modern day cults by misapplication. Papists, Mormons, JW's, and others call themselves "Christians". I don't mind when someone asks me: "are you a Christian?" I will answer yes to that because I am a Christian. But I am an Independent Bible Believing Baptist Christian. Now days you have to make the distinction so no one gets the idea you belong to any of the other groups that are cults.

You don't have to be called something to be that thing. John was a baptizer and the thing he did was attributed to him as his surname: John Baptist see Luke 7:20, "When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" This was what he was known for. John's baptism in water was aimed at the Jewish people as a nation for the nation to repent. But they killed him.

We dunk them in the water so that they are covered up and then they come UP from the water like raised from the grave. It is a type of death, burial and resurrection that it is a picture of: Romans 6:3-7, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." So it is also a picture of OUR resurrection from the dead both NOW in your spirit and one day in your flesh when all body, soul and spirit are together raised from the dead.

Baptism in water gets a lost person wet! It only touches your body; and cannot touch your soul or your spirit. Water is physical; and your soul and spirit are spiritual. This is good Baptist doctrine! This is good Bible doctrine: therefore good Bible doctrine is good Baptist doctrine.

The Baptist line is the line of Believer's Baptism regardless of anyone being called anything. It is the Christian Line that started with Christ even though it was named later. It goes through the Apostles with Paul to the body of Christ from the Scriptures down to the Anabaptist of old (Rebaptizers) and were called this because they were around during the dark ages, and when a papist was saved they would renounce their infant baptism and get water baptized in believer's baptism

as a testimony of their conversion. This led to the massacres during the dark ages along with other papist atrocities from their false doctrines of devils.

1. Infant baptism
2. Baptism for the dead
3. The Eucharist or Mass
4. Their wafer god
5. Transubstantiation
6. The emasculate conception
7. Sacraments

All these things the Anabaptist refused in light of the words of God. Then after the reformation the Anabaptist took off the ANA and called themselves Baptists.

Later the Baptists got in arguments about certain doctrines and split in too groups. This is where we get the Sothern Baptist, Northern Baptist, etc. Then there is the group that is not a group and they are Independent Baptist which means they are autonomous but baptistic. Independent to any Hierarchy and there is no clergy but a pastor. The other beliefs of the Baptists are:

1. The priesthood of the Believer
2. The fellowship of the brethren
3. The one body of the Lord Jesus Christ of all born again believers
4. The gospel is that Christ died, was buried and rose again from the dead
5. That in the gospel is the full and complete payment for all your sins
6. That you get eternal life and will never perish when you are born again
7. That you MUST be born again or die in your sins

The End