



## **BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES**

### **B - BIBLICAL ACCURACY AND AUTHORITY (2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 3:15-16)**

*As Baptists we believe that the Word of God is the foundation and supreme authority for all matters of theological doctrine and church polity (governance). In other words, the Holy Bible is the ultimate authority for faith and practice.*

### **A - AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (REVELATION 1:11)**

*All human authority for the doctrine and practice of the local church lies within the local church itself. In other words, the local church is completely self-governing and not subject to any external control, even choosing the level of external influence to which it will expose itself.*

### **P - PRIESTHOOD OF THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER (1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 2:9)**

*The individual priesthood of the believer affirms the common dignity, common calling, common privilege, and common obligation of all Christians before God. We need no priests, we are not priests in the Old Testament sense, we are responsible to no priests, but we are responsible to function as priests in a sense. God holds each individual responsible for his own standards, behavior, belief, and service*

### **T - TWO CHURCH ORDINANCES (MATTHEW 28:19 & 1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 11:23-25)**

*Baptists recognize and practice two local church ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Baptist church believes that the one way a person unites with a local congregation is to be baptized, through immersion, based upon his/her confession of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Purpose of the Lord's Supper: is to proclaim the Lord's death; to celebrate the lord's presence and power in our lives, and to remember that the Lord will come back one day.*

### **I - INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY (JOSHUA 24:15 & MATTHEW 16:13-20)**

*Soul Freedom or "individual soul liberty" basically is the God-given freedom and the ability of persons to know and respond to God's will. As Baptist we believe that human beings are not puppets or machines but instead have free will.*



### **S - SAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (ACTS 2:47)**

*As Baptist we believe strongly that every believer should be an active member of a local church, thus ensuring that our name is on a local church membership roll as well on God's heavenly roll.*

### **T - TWO CHURCH OFFICES (PHILIPPIANS 1:1)**

*The office of Pastor and deacon are set apart from all other leaders in the Baptist church in that these are the only two offices whose creation is directly found in scripture. They were not created by a denomination or committee. But they are found in scripture.*

### **S - SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE (MATTHEW 22:21)**

*Separation of church and state implies that there should be no essential union between organized religion and human government. Human government should not seek to control the internal affairs of organized religion or of individual religious beliefs or practices. As well that No denomination or organized religion should control human government.*