What Makes the Baptists Different?

Baptist

What Makes the Baptists Different?

Today's Questions:

1. Where do Baptists come from?
2. How did Baptists get their title?
3. What do Baptists believe?
4. Are all Baptists the same?
5. What difference does this make for me this week?

The Other Liberty: The History of Early Baptists in America

What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

Where do Baptists come from?

-The earliest Baptist groups originated in Europe in the 1500s. They rebelled against the established state churches after concluding that these churches were promoting false doctrines and practices.
-Many of these groups suffered severe persecution because of their beliefs
-To escape persecution, some of these early Baptists migrated to America

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What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

How did Baptists get their title?

A few options:

- John the Baptist
- Self-Prescribed
- Outsider-Described
- Biblical Title

Baptists received their title from outsiders who scorned them and their beliefs.

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What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

Some problems with the view that Baptists came from John the Baptist:

-"John the Baptist" was simply a convenient way of identifying John, the cousin of Jesus
-A better translation is "John, the Baptizer"
-John the Baptist did not start his own church; the first church began after John had already died, and before his death, he told his followers to follow Jesus

John the Baptist

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What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

Some problems with the view that Baptists gave themselves their title:

-At the onset, "Baptist" was derogatory
-Some of the early Baptists actually called themselves by other names to identify themselves, based on who they followed and why they rebelled against the established church

Self-Prescribed

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What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

Some problems with the view that Baptists derived their title from Scripture:

-No group of believers in Scripture bears the title of "Baptist"
-Most of the time, churches in Scripture are identified only by their geographic location
-Believers are referred to as "brethren," "believers," and "beloved," but never as Baptists.

Biblical Title

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What Makes the ~~Baptists~~ Different?

Why outsiders gave Baptists their title:

-Baptists were known for baptizing only professing believers
-"It would be correct to say, Baptist did get their name for the same reason that John received his." – Jimmie Heflin, *These Folks Called Baptist*
-One group of Germans who practiced triune immersion were called "Dunkards"

Outsider-Described

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What do Baptists Believe?

-One of the most popular ways to describe Baptists is with the Baptist Distinctives acrostic:

- **B** – Biblical Authority
- **A** – Autonomy of the Local Church
- **P** – Priesthood of the Believer
- **T** – Two Ordinances (Baptism and Communion)
- **I** – Individual Soul Liberty
- **S** – Saved Church Membership
- **T** – Two Offices (Pastor and Deacon)

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What Makes the Baptists Different?

-The problem with the acrostic is that it does not define all the things that Baptists believe

-Some people also get the impression that Baptists think they're the only one who believe all the things on that list

-The Baptist Distinctives acrostic is an extremely helpful starting point for understanding Baptist beliefs

-There is a simpler way to describe Baptists beliefs and practices

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What Makes the Baptists Different?

Baptists Believe the Bible!

-Historically, Baptists have claimed a literal interpretation of Scripture as their sole basis for faith and practice
-Other systems of belief interpret Scripture differently, add to Scripture, or disregard Scripture altogether

Latter-Day Saints	Catholics	Lutherans	Methodists
• Bible • Book of Mormon	• Bible • Sacraments • Creeds	• Bible • Baptism • Creeds	• Bible • Good Works • Creeds

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What Makes the Baptists Different?

Baptists Believe the Bible!

-Baptists are especially unique in their understanding of salvation and eternal security:
1. Salvation is possible only by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8-9)
2. Salvation is received by faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9)
3. Salvation is forever and cannot be lost (John 10:28-29)
4. Baptism follows salvation and has no saving power in and of itself (Acts 2:41)
5. Good works follow salvation and have no saving power in and of themselves (Ephesians 2:8-10)

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What Makes the Baptists Different?

Are All Baptists the Same?

-Nope! Over the years, some churches have adopted different beliefs and practices that may not reflect biblical truth, but they still claim the Baptist title

-Tradition plays a role in the varying types of Baptists; they keep the name but not the values

-There are also many good churches that have dropped the Baptist title but still hold Baptist values

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What Makes the Baptists Different?

What Difference Does This Make for Me This Week?

1. Ask yourself why you attend a Baptist church or call yourself a Baptist.

2. Examine yourself to determine if you are truly saved by faith alone.

3. Evaluate how you study Scripture and how much importance you place it.

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