

## WHY I AM A BAPTIST

NOTE: THIS ACROSTIC IS NEITHER COMPLETE, NOR IS IT AN ORDERED TREATMENT OF DOCTRINE, NOR IS IT EXCLUSIVE TO BAPTISTS.

### B Biblical Authority

- Scripture is the only and supreme authority for faith and practice
- Adding, detracting, and distorting are 'doctrines of men' and cursed
- 1689 Confession page 7:1 and page 9:6a and page 10:9, 10
- II Tim. 3:16, 17; Matt. 15:9
- John 17:17; Heb. 4:12; II Peter 1:20, 21

### A Autonomy of the Local Church

- I Cor. 1:2; Titus 1:5; Rev. 2, 3
- Col. 1:18; Acts 13-14; 20:19-30; Eph. 1:22, 23
- Acts 6 -choosing of Deacons (not the O.T. casting of lots, but congregation)
- What about Acts 15?

### P Priesthood of the Believer

- I Peter 2:5-10; Heb. 4:14-16; I Tim. 2:5, 9

### T Two Ordinances

- Baptism - Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:36-38; Rom 6:1-6
- Lord's Supper - I Cor. 11:23-26;

### I Individual Soul Liberty - Freedom of Conscience

- Chicago Declaration on Religious Freedom (2000) "the freedom to worship God without government coercion and to exercise liberty of religious conscience is fundamental to any serious notion of human rights and the dignity of humankind."
- 1689 Confession - Page 39:2
- Romans 10:9-17
- II Cor. 4:2

## S Saved and Baptized Church Membership

- 1689 Confession - Page 46:6
- Paedobaptism and infant church membership extra-biblical - every N.T. command and instance of baptism requires belief; every mention of household baptism relates to faith except Lydia;
- Acts 2:37-41
- Gal. 3:27; Romans 2:29; 6:3, 4; Col. 2:11, 12; I Peter 3:21

## T Two Offices in the Church

- RC Church hierarchy unbiblical
- Phil 1:1; Acts 6:1-7; I Tim 3:1, 13; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:1-4
- Two Baptist views of church gov't: Elder rule vs. Congregational rule

## S Separation of Church and State

- II Cor 6:14
- American Baptist influence on the Bill of Rights

OTHER DISTINCTIVES?