

W A L K I N G B Y F A I T H

F A I T H B A P T I S T C H U R C H

Baptist Basics 101

Overview

- Part One - Baptist Beliefs
- Part Two - Baptist History



Part One - Baptist Beliefs

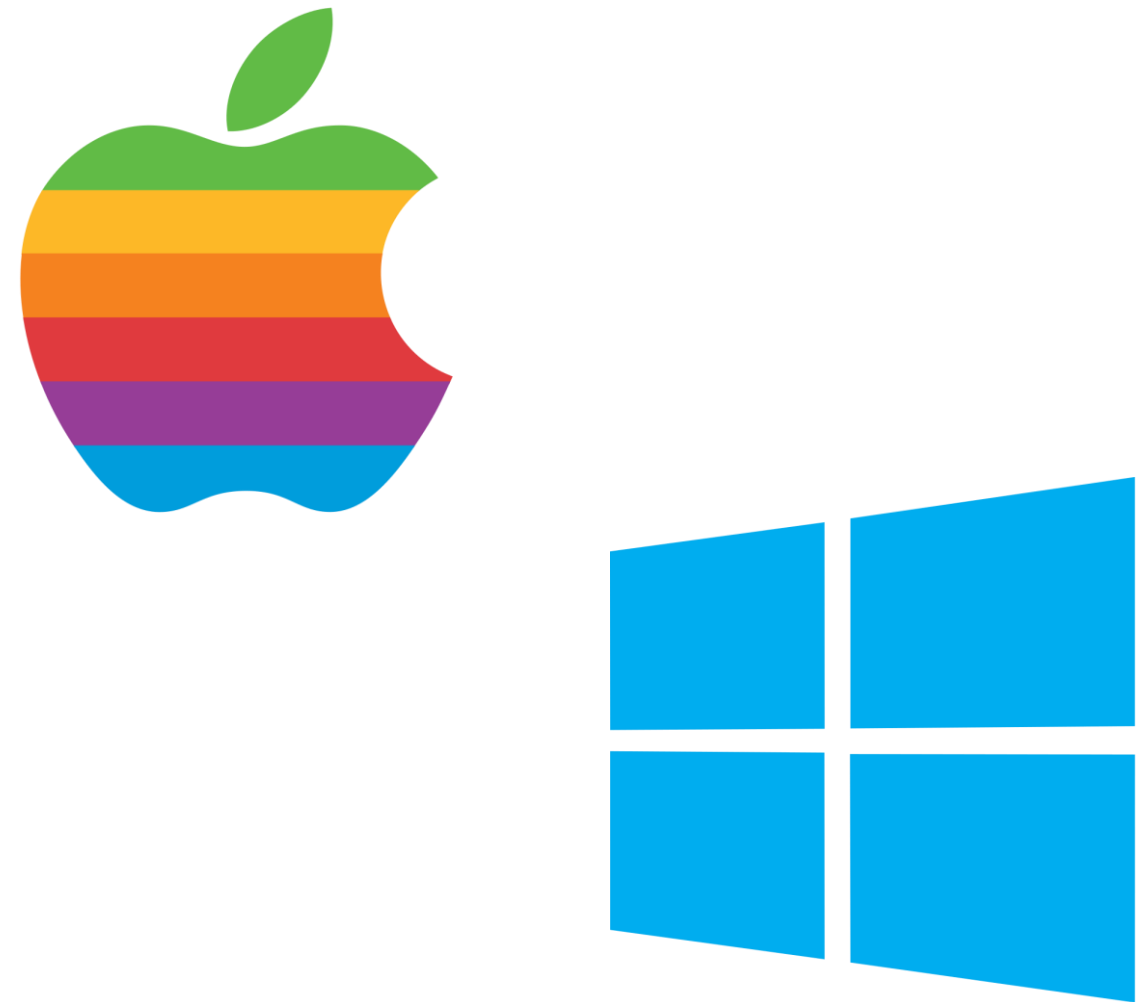
Does it really matter???

Differences Matter!

Differences Matter in Football!



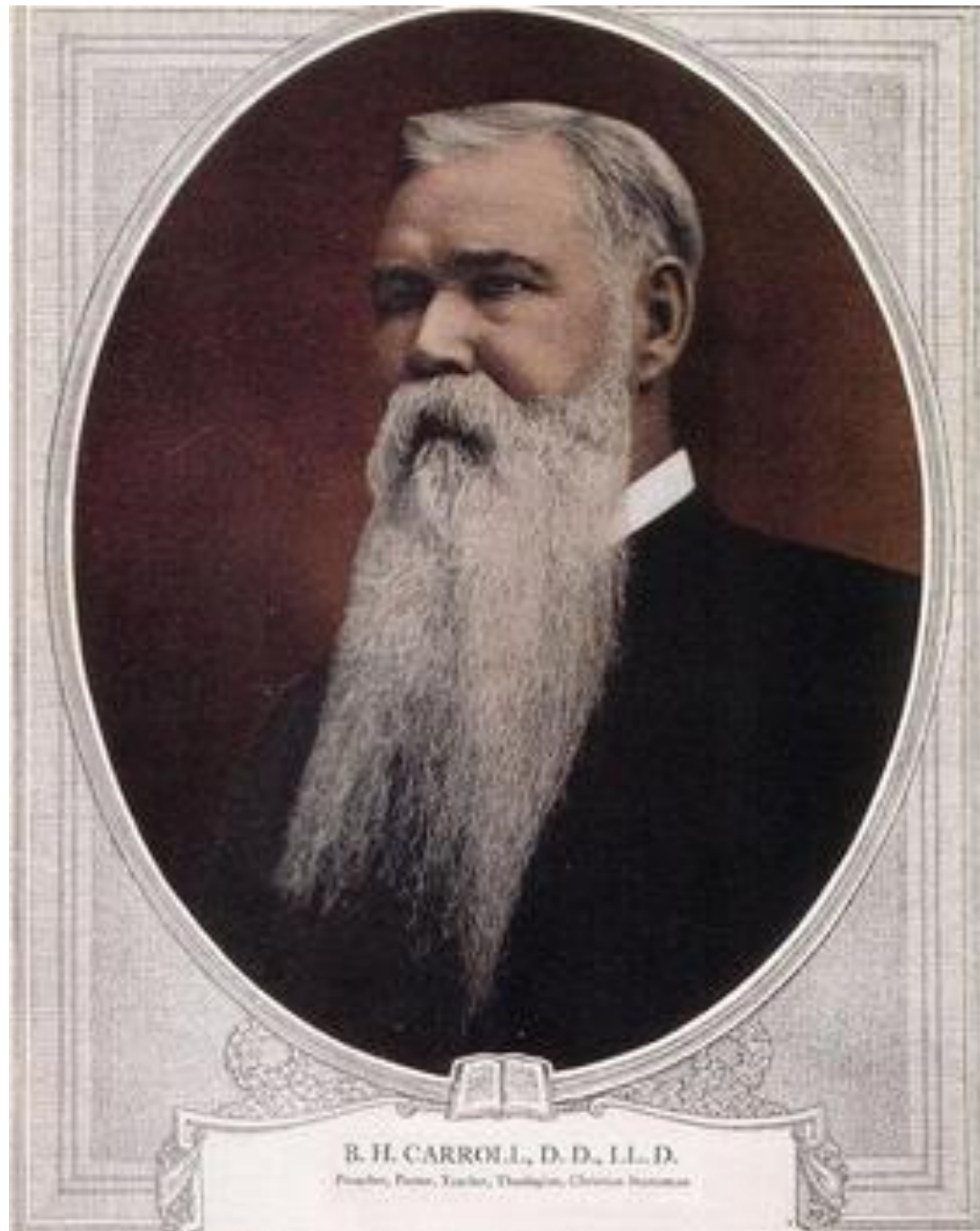
Differences Matter in Technology!



Different Doctrines

- Not everyone holds the same beliefs.
- Denominations and churches are built around these differences
- Doctrine defines a Christian

B.H. Carroll on Doctrine



"A church with a little creed is a church with a little life. The more divine doctrines a church can agree on, the greater its power, and the wider its usefulness. The fewer its articles of faith, the fewer its bonds of union and compactness. The modern cry, 'Less creed and more liberty,' is a degeneration from the vertebrate to the jellyfish, and means less unity and less morality, and it means more heresy. Definitive truth does not create heresy - it only exposes and corrects. Shut off the creed and the Christian world would fill up with heresy unsuspected and uncorrected, but none the less deadly"

What is a Baptist?

- New Oxford American Dictionary - “a member of a Protestant Christian denomination advocating baptism only of adult believers by total immersion. Baptists form one of the largest Protestant bodies and are found throughout the world and esp. in the U.S.”
- Webster’s 1828 - “As a contraction of Anabaptist, one who denies the doctrine of infant baptism, and maintains that baptism ought to be administered only to adults by immersing the body in water.”

Baptist Beliefs

Can Be Summarized As:

1. Fundamentals of the Orthodox Christianity
2. Baptist Distinctives



The Fundamentals

- The Trinity
- Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Infallibility of Scripture
- Incarnation, Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ
- Salvation by Grace through Faith
- Reality of Second Coming, Heaven, and Hell

Baptist Distinctives

- Not a comprehensive list of everything Baptists believe.
- Instead is a list of key Baptist doctrines.
- These beliefs are “distinctively” Baptist.
- A Baptist must hold ALL of these doctrines.

The Baptist Distinctives

- Bible as Sole Authority for Faith and Practice
- Autonomy of the Local Church
- Priesthood of the Believer
- Two Ordinances in Church
- Individual Soul Liberty
- Separation of Church and State
- Two Offices in Church Government
- Salvation by Grace Through Faith



Bible as Sole Authority

Bible as Sole Authority

- Example Verses: II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:23-25
- The Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice.
- Literal interpretation of the Bible is used.
- Excludes: Councils, Tradition, Additional Revelations, etc.



Autonomy of the Local Church

Autonomy of the Local Church

- Example Verses: Revelation 1:11, Acts 14:23
- Each local congregation of believers is free to act for and govern itself.
- Free to follow the pattern established in the Bible.



Priesthood of the Believer

Priesthood of the Believer

- Example Verses: I Timothy 2:5; I Peter 2:5,9
- No intermediary between God and each believer.
- Direct access to God.
- Individual responsibility to fulfill His will.



Two Ordinances

Two Ordinances

- Example Verses: Acts 8:36-37; I Corinthians 11:23-26
- Only two “prescribed practices” by Christ for the church
- These are not done for salvation.

Baptism

- NOT FOR SALVATION
- Believer's Baptism
- Immersion in water
- Requirement for Church Membership

Lord's Supper

- NOT FOR SALVATION
- Taking of wine (grape juice) and unleavened bread
- Done in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice



Individual Soul Liberty

Individual Soul Liberty

- Example Verses: Matthew 16:27; II Peter 3:9
- Sometimes called “Soul Competency”
- It is every individual person's responsibility and choice to serve God.
- Every soul is free to choose and is answerable to God
- The responsibility of action and consequence is on the individual



Separation of Church and State

Separation of Church and State

- Example Verses: Acts 5:29; Romans 13
- Church and State are both ordained by God but have separate responsibilities.
- No government or authority should force religion on the individual
- Not anti-government, but pro-liberty.



Two Officers

Two Officers

- Example Verses: I Timothy 3:2-13
- In the administration of the church, only two positions are clearly commanded in the Scripture - Pastor and Deacon

Pastor

- The Pastor is the "under shepherd" of the church, and the care of its members is his responsibility.
- Each congregation elects a man to this position to lead the church.
- This office is also called by the names in the New Testament, such as "Bishop" and "Elder".

Deacons

- The Deacon is a servant of the church and is to assist the Pastor in his duties.
- These men are elected by the congregation to this office.
- They are not given authority to rule over the church or pastor, but to aid in the work of the church.



Salvation by Grace through Faith

Salvation by Grace through Faith

- Example Verses: John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
- We are saved not by our works or righteousness, but through our faith in Christ.
- Church membership, good works, baptism, etc. - CANNOT SAVE!!!
- Only simple faith in Christ can save



Summary

Baptist Beliefs

- Summarized as:
 - Fundamentals
 - Baptist Distinctives
- The Key to Baptist Doctrine is that it is based on Scripture.

NEXT WEEK...

Overview of Baptist History

