

History Seminar: Protestant Denominations

Session No. 1: The Baptists

Baptist History: *Where Did They Come From?*

1. **Soil:** *Three Contested Views on Baptist Origins*
 - In the **New Testament** with **John the Baptist** (c. 30 AD)?
 - In the **Protestant Reformation** with the **Anabaptists** (c. 1500's)?
 - In the **English Reformation** with the **Puritans** (c. 1700's)?
2. **Roots:** *Began as English Separatists Purifying Puritanism*
 - Church **Membership** Must Be **Believers Baptized** by **Immersion**
 - Church **Polity** Must Be **Congregational**
 - Church **Government** Must Be **Autonomous**



3. **Shoots:** *The Rise of English Baptists*

- Began **Covenanting** Together with **Membership**
- Began **Cooperating** Together with **Associations and Conventions**
- Began **Confessing** Together with **Confessions of Faith**
- Began **Evangelizing** Together with **Missionary Organizations**

4. **Fruits:** *The Rise of Baptist Denominations in America*

- For **Theological** Reasons: *General Baptists and Particular Baptists*
- For **Historical** Reasons: *Landmark Baptists*
- For **Political** Reasons: *Southern Baptists and Northern Baptists (American Baptists, USA)*

Baptist Distinctives: *What Distinguishes Them?*

- B – Biblical Authority
- A – Autonomy of the Local Church
- P – Priesthood of the Believer
- T – Two Offices of the Church
- I – Individual Soul Competency
- S – Saved Church Membership
- T – Two Ordinances
- S – Separation of Church and State



Baptist Highlight: *The Southern Baptist Convention*

- **It's Troubling Past:** *Slavery and Liberalism*
- **It's Encouraging Present:** *Repentance and the Conservative Resurgence*
- **It's Hopeful Future:** *The Genius of the Cooperative Program*