

History Seminar: Protestant Denominations

Session No. 1: The Baptists

Baptist History: *Where Did They Come From?*

- Their **Soil**: *Baptist Origins Are Debated*
 - Some Argue Baptists Began with **John the Baptist** (c. 30 AD)
 - Some Argue Baptists Began with the **Anabaptists** (c.1500's)
 - Some Argue Baptists Began with the **Puritans** (c.1600's)
- Their **Roots**: *Baptists Sought to Purify Puritanism*
 - By Reforming **Church Membership**: *Believers Baptized by Immersion*
 - By Reforming **Church Government**: *Congregational and Autonomous*



- Their **Shoots**: *Baptists Began Organizing in England*
 - By **Covenanting** Together: *Wrote Church Covenants*

 - By **Cooperating** Together: *Formed Associations and Conventions*

 - Be **Confessing** Together: *Shared Confessions of Faith*

 - By **Evangelizing** Together: *Launched Missionary Organizations*

- Their **Fruits**: *Baptists Splintered in England and America*
 - For **Theological** Reasons: *General and Particular Baptists*

 - For **Historical** Reasons: *Landmark Baptists*

 - For **Political** Reasons: *Northern and Southern Baptists*

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:** *Conservative Resurgence*
- **It's Hopeful Future:** *The Genius of the Cooperative Program*