

Baptist Beliefs
Evangelism and Missions, Education, Stewardship, Cooperation

Evangelism and Missions

1. Evangelism
 - a. Central to the church's responsibilities.
 - b. Involves telling other the gospel of salvation with the goal of leading them to repentance and faith in Christ. *Matthew 28:19-20*
 - c. Duty and Privilege – responsibility in evangelism as the fulfillment of God's redemptive purpose. *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13-17*
 - i. We have - Only one way to God
 - ii. We should have - Compassion in our sharing of the gospel

2. Missions
 - a. Goes hand in hand with evangelism, but has been understood as reaching nations or people groups rather than individuals.
 - b. Great commission calls for both evangelism and missions to take place.
 - c. Has historically been limited due to barriers – transportation, borders, language, culture, etc.

3. Great Commission
 - a. Evangelical Christians understand that life and death hang in the balance and that a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is all that separates sinners from hell. (BF&M pg. 125) *John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:12*
 - b. The power of a Christian's verbal witness is greatly enhanced by the illustration of a believer's life and acts of service in Christ's name.
 - c. Not for religious professionals alone. Every Christian is charged with the responsibility to share the gospel and to tell others how they can come to know Jesus Christ and receive the gift of everlasting life. *Matthew 9:37-38; John 20:21*

Education

1. Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. *Deuteronomy 4-6; Psalm 3:13; 19:7; 25:4-5; 119:11*
 - a. This does NOT necessarily mean that scripture comes to all as common sense, if it were common sense ALL would accept Christ and His free pardon of sin.
 - b. Requires:
 - i. Prayer
 - ii. Study
 - iii. Enlightenment
 - iv. Understanding
 - v. Revelation (through the Holy Spirit)
 - vi. Growth
 - c. Can someone come to know Christ simply by reading the Word of God?
 - i. Yes – God can reveal himself through scripture and convict.
 - ii. No – if the person is not receptive to or does not receive the call of God.
2. Answer these questions: (True or False)
 - a. ___ The ancient Jewish home centered on teaching God's Word to Children?
 - b. ___ The primary responsibility to teach children God's Word today lies with the church.
 - c. ___ We should seize every opportunity to teach others God's Word.
 - d. ___ God wants His people to study His Word.
3. We should judge all things according to the scriptures truth. *John 17:17*
4. We should not be judgmental of others lack of knowledge, but should teach and encourage others in their Christian growth. *Ephesians 4:11-15; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 5:12-14*
5. We should be teaching the truth, to the best of our ability and knowledge. *2 Timothy 2:15*

Stewardship

1. God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. *Matthew 6:19-21*

2. Established in the Garden of Eden. *Genesis 1:27-30*
3. We will be held accountable for what God has given us to be stewards over. *Matthew 6:24; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21; 16:1-13*
4. Our stewardship is not limited to ourselves or other Christians, but everyone. *Romans 1:14*
5. Material possessions DO NOT necessarily equate to God's favor.
 - a. Money and possessions cannot buy salvation through Jesus Christ.
6. How should we approach giving? *Matthew 6:1-4; 23:23; Luke 12:16-21; Acts 17:24, 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Philippians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 1:18-19*
 - a. Cheerfully
 - b. Regularly
 - c. Systematically
 - d. Proportionately
 - e. Liberally
7. Tithe
 - a. Old Testament set 10% as an offering. *Leviticus 27:30-32; Malachi 3:10*
 - b. Are we, as New Testament believers still under this law?
 - i. Why would we not be?
 - ii. We still have no less responsibility to contribute to the financial needs of the church and others.
 - iii. Are we not called to higher standards in the New Testament? *Matthew 6:19-21; 23:23*

Cooperation

1. Christian unity is "spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for a common goal by various groups of Christ's people". *Ezra 1:1-4; 2:68-69; Nehemiah 4; Mark 2:3-4; Acts 1:13-14, 2:44-47, 4:32-37; 1 Corinthians 3:5-11, 12:4-27*
2. We, as Baptist, do not believe in a hierarchy or responsibility to others, only to God, but we do voluntarily associate ourselves with other Christian groups to achieve a common purpose.
 - a. Many can do much more than a few. (locally, regionally, worldwide)

3. Should be in spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation that we assemble as a congregation and work together.
4. Cooperative Program – a way to carry forward missionary, education, and benevolent ministries through financial support.