

# WAS JESUS A REGULAR BAPTIST?



## Lesson Seven – New Testament Authority

Jesus' instructions for His Church are in the New Testament.

### Regudispenbaptularsationalist

While a person does not have to hold to *both* Dispensational *and* Baptist doctrine, there are many threads that connect the two.

\* Think about it – if the church is Israel, then the Old Testament has instructions for the church. How might that change what we believe about the church?

### Baptist Distinctives

#### *We are a Christian Church*

As such, we believe in the historic Christian doctrines like the Triune God and the deity, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### *We are a Protestant Church.*

As such, we would believe in the “solos” of the reformation:

- Sola Scriptura
- Solus Christus
- Sola Fide
- Sola Gratia
- Soli Deo Gloria

#### *We are an Evangelical Church.*

As such, we believe in the inspiration, inerrancy, sufficiency, and authority of the Word of God, which teaches justification by faith alone in substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone. This would include the “fundamentals” of the faith:

- Inspiration and Infallibility of Scripture

- Deity and Virgin Birth of Christ
- Sufficiency of Christ's Substitutionary Atonement
- Literal, Bodily Resurrection of Christ
- Literal, Bodily Return of Christ

## *We are a Baptist Church*

There are many kinds of Baptists. How many can you name?

## *We are a Regular Baptist Church*

A Regular Baptist holds to orthodox Baptist doctrine and affirms the rule (*regula*) of Scripture as the ultimate authority for faith and practice.<sup>1</sup>

## *The Baptist Distinctives work as a "bundle."*

Each "distinctive" is held by at least one other church group. It's the whole bundle that sets Baptists apart.

- **Biblical Authority** (Lesson 7)
- **Autonomy of the Local Church** (Lesson 11)
- **Priesthood of the believer** (Lesson 10)
- **Two Ordinances: Baptism** (Lesson 8) & **Lord's Supper** (Lesson 9)
- **Individual Soul Liberty** (Lesson 10)
- **Saved, Baptized Church Membership** (Lesson 9)
- **Two Offices: Pastors & Deacons** (Lesson 11)
- **Separation of Church and State** (Lesson 12)

## The Authority of the New Testament (**Biblical Authority**)

### *Biblical Authority vs. Credal Authority (Mark 7:8-9)*

The Bible is the only authority for the church, not traditions, creeds, or confessions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Regular-Baptist-Church.html>

## *New Testament Authority (Ephesians 3:1-7)*

Baptists consistently affirm the absolute authority of the New Testament in all matters of church faith and order.

## *Review of New Testament Interpretation (2 Timothy 2:15)*

- Scripture will never contradict itself.
- Scripture helps us understand Scripture.
- Therefore:
  - Teaching passages should interpret historical passages.
  - Clear passages should interpret obscure passages.
  - Deliberate passages should interpret incidental passages.

## The Sufficiency of Scripture

### *Luther and Zwingli Dispute*

- They agreed that the anti-Scriptural doctrines and forms of the Roman Catholic church should be removed (Sola Scriptura).
- They disagreed about the doctrines, forms, and customs that, while not authorized by the Bible, did not obviously contradict Biblical teaching.

### *The Sufficiency of Scripture in Scripture*

- Scripture reveals everything necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:2-4)
- The New Testament reveals everything that is necessary for the right order of the church (John 14:26).

### *The Historical Baptist Position*

When faced with various denominational questions, Baptists consistently chose to adopt only what was taught in the New Testament.

# Biblical Evidence for New Testament Authority

1. *Jesus will build His church on the Father's revelation by the Holy Spirit through the apostles.*

- Jesus taught that He would build His church in the future using the revelation of the Father (Matthew 16:17-18).
- Jesus taught that the Spirit would complete the information the apostles needed (John 16:13-15).
- The New Testament is the authority for the church (Hebrews 1:1-2, 2:2-4).

2. *Jesus is the source of all wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:1-3).*

3. *We grow to maturity in the teachings of Christ (Col. 2:4-10).*

4. *We are to reject new doctrines and practices (Col. 2:16-23).*

## *Summary of New Testament Authority*

- We do not have freedom to make up morally binding rules for other Christians.
- We do not have freedom to make up our own doctrines, order, or worship.
- If a doctrine or practice is not revealed in or cannot soundly be inferred from the teachings of Christ and His apostles for the church, it must not be introduced as an aspect of New Testament church faith and order.

## Conclusion

- Christ is the head of the church.
- He alone has the authority to define its nature, mission, constitution, order, ordinances, offices, and worship.
- His teachings, proclaimed by His authorized Apostles, provide the foundation for the church.
- He has not left us to wonder about these matters but has addressed them through His apostles in the New Testament.
- We do not have the right to introduce new doctrines, offices, ordinances, or forms of worship on our own initiative.