

# OUR BELIEFS (Cont.)

## LESSON 3

### D. The Regenerate Church Membership

1. Biblical Evidence Demands a Regenerate Church Membership
  - a. Only saved people were added to the local churches in the New Testament. Acts 2:41,47
  - b. The members of the local churches are called saints. I Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1,2; I Thessalonians 1:1-4.
  - c. The local churches were rebuked for tolerating unbelievers in their membership. Revelation 2:20
  - c. Unbelievers are regarded as intruders in the local church. Jude 4
2. The Nature of the Church Demands a Regenerate Church Membership
  - a. The church's name demands this.
  - b. The church's commission demands this. Matthew 28:18-20
  - a. The church's work demands this. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:1-3

### E. The Separation of Church and State

1. The Distinction between the Church and the State  
Matthew 22:15-22
  - a. There is a realm called Caesar's: the civil government.
  - b. There is a realm called God's: the realm of spiritual truth represented today by the local church.
  - c. Christians operate in both realms.
2. The Division of Responsibilities
  - a. The Believer's responsibility to the State
    1. Pray. I Timothy 2:1-2
    2. Pay. Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:7
    3. Obey. Romans 13:1-6; I Peter 2:13-15
  - b. The State's responsibility to the Citizenry
    1. To serve the citizenry. Romans 13:4
    2. To subdue the lawbreaker. Romans 13:4

### F. The Two Ordinances of the Church

1. The Lord's Supper
  - a. It is commanded by Christ. Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 11:23-34
  - b. It is to be observed in the local church. Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 11:20,33,34
  - c. It is a memorial of Christ's death. I Corinthians 11:24,25
  - d. Its elements are symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood.
2. Baptism
  - a. It is commanded by Christ. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-18
  - b. It was the first step of obedience to Christ after salvation.

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Acts 2:42; 8:12; 10:44-48; 16:31-33

- c. It is an illustration of our salvation picturing the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6
  - (1) *Baptize* means “to dip, submerge, or immerse.”
  - (2) Immersion gives us the best picture. Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Acts 8:38, 39
- d. It is a testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and of one’s salvation.
  - (1) It cannot be administered *before* salvation; it would picture nothing.
  - (2) It cannot be administered *for* salvation; it cannot save.
- e. It is a prerequisite for church membership. Acts 2:41-43

### G. The Two Offices of the Church

- 1. Pastor
  - a. This office is often translated as *bishop* or *elder* in the NT, but the words are used interchangeably. Acts 20:17, 28; I Peter 5:1-3
  - b. The term “pastor” signifies a shepherd who is charged with leading, feeding, guiding, and guarding the sheep committed to his care. I Peter 5:1-2
  - c. The Bible gives specific qualifications for the pastor. I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5,7
- 2. Deacon
  - a. This office is often translated as *minister* or *serve* or like terms. Five times the word, *deaconos*, is translated *deacon*.
  - b. The deacon is a servant of the Lord who serves the church and supports the pastor in the work of the ministry.
  - c. The Bible gives specific qualifications for the deacon. Acts 6:1-4; I Timothy 3:8-12

## II. Our Articles of Faith

- A. In essentials: *unity*
- B. In non-essentials: *liberty*
- C. In all things: *charity*

## III. Our Government as an Independent Baptist Church

We believe the model for scriptural church government is:

- A. Christ is the head. Colossians 1:18
- B. The Pastor is the human leader. Hebrews 13:7,17
- C. The Staff administrates.
- D. The Deacons serve. Acts 6:3,4
- E. The Pastor and Deacons all serve with the approval of the congregation, whose will is the final human authority in a Baptist church.

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New Members Class  
Discovering CBC