

An Introduction . . .

into what constitutes a people group
known today as “***Biblical Baptists***”

This label *might* also include:

Separatist Baptists or
Independent Baptists...

Church History ... the era
including and since the Book of Acts
...would *testify* that there have been
local churches which have held
***TRUE* to the same doctrines, beliefs**
and practices of today's
“Separatist Baptists”

Stated another way . . . with some “relatively small variations” and “small gaps in the historical record,” – these groups of **Biblicists** have **been in continuous existence since the time of Christ.**

This can be said for NO other church...or churches, NO other denomination or religious organization !

***“BAPTISTS” – simply came from the
EARLY CHURCHES’ SCRIPTURAL ACTIVITY –
i.e. the early congregations’ obedience
to the Lord’s commission passages—
(Matt. 28:18-20) and their continual
practice....(Acts 2:41ff)...***

These “**Biblicist believers,**” [starting in the “late First and early Second centuries], **opposed with determination**—by their own polity and practice the *DEVELOPING FALSE ROMANIST VIEWS* of primarily **TWO THINGS**:

a.) **a man-based authority over local churches**
(*this would evolve into the papacy*),

and

b.) **pedobaptism** (essentially seen as “the entry into the body of Christ” / that is....the ***salvation of infants...***who had been sprinkled or dipped by “the church”).

- For about 100 years after the death of Christ, N.T. church polity was evident in most congregations
- Sometime in the 2nd Century, in some churches, one of the pastors began assuming leadership over the others
- This was usually due to a strong personality, his maturity, and/or an outstanding leadership trait
- Then, about AD150, one could observe in many churches this “leading pastor” began assuming to govern his church. As they grew, he would cease from his secular job and he became the “Bishop.”
- As new congregations were formed, the Bishop was seen as separate from the local churches. Instead of each church being led uniquely by their pastor (the NT pattern), the Bishop of that city would assume control over those churches

- ☞ In Rome by the end of the 3rd century, there were about 40 churches. Each church had its own Presbyter, but they were all under the control of the city Bishop
- ☞ By the end of the 4th century, the office of Bishop was Territorial Governor and the local church ministers became known as priests
- ☞ By the 3rd century “faith” had been replaced by a standard mechanical rite. The church itself was conceived as a “saving institution” with “saving sacraments.” This was under the Bishop’s control
- ☞ At the Council of Nicea (AD 325) three principal Bishops were placed over the churches in the territories surrounding Rome, Antioch and Alexandria
- ☞ The “resisters” were never part of this sacral institution!

Groups of *historical Baptists*
(“*originalists*” who sought to be
distinctively Scriptural in faith & practice)
have *split OFF* over the years from other
groups who wanted to retain the name
“Baptist” while *rejecting* the mold of
the **First Century believers . . .**

“These saints were designated in different ways and with varying names: some after their outstanding leaders, others after their locations, and yet others for those principles peculiarly different than that of the established religion. They were among those called **Paulicians, Montenses, Donatists, Novatians, Waldenses, Petrobrussians, Albigenses, Lollards, Anabaptists,** and other ancient sects.”

TDinBH, Vol. I

For practicing and defending
these wholly Biblical positions...

THOUSANDS have been slain
over these centuries . . .

**WE OWE THEM A HUGE
DEBT OF GRATITUDE !**

Baptists are NOT Protestants!

The term *Protestant* was first used by German Lutherans in the early 1500's – meaning essentially “those who were leaving the Catholic church *in PROTEST*” (most notably, a German monk named Martin Luther, 10/31/1517).

Historical Baptists have ***never been*** “part” of Roman Catholicism....so there has never occurred an exit from this group—in protest!

Hence, the *Baptists are NOT Protestants* !

*“The modern Baptists formerly called
Anabaptists are the only body of
known Christians that have
never symbolized with the
Papacy or Rome”*

Sir Isaac Newton –1642-1726

*“The Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community that has stood since the days of the Apostles and [as a Christian society] has preserved pure doctrine of the Gospel **THROUGH ALL AGES.**”* (emphasis mine)

Ypsij and Dermont—
Historians of the Dutch reformed church

“The sentiments of Baptists and their practice of baptism from the Apostolic Age to the present, have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments.

[Evidence] to their existence in every century can be produced.”

Alexander Campbell

Founder of Campbellites

“We shall afterward show that the rise of the Anabaptists took place PRIOR to the reformation of the church of England and there are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe, small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the time of the Apostles. In the sense of direct transmission of Divine truth and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probably that those churches have a lineage or succession MORE ANCIENT than the Roman church”

Robert Barclay, Quaker Historian b. 1648

“I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as 100 A.D., although without a doubt there were Baptist churches then, as ALL CHRISTIANS were then Baptists.”

John Clark Randolph

Historian

“Before the rise of Luther and Calvin there lay secreted in almost all countries of Europe, persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptist ... the origin of Baptists is lost in the remote depths of antiquity - the first century was a history of Baptists.”

Johann Lorenz Mosheim

German Lutheran

*“The institution of the Anabaptists
is no novelty, but for 1300 years
has caused great disturbance in
the church”*

Huldrych Zwingli

Swiss Reformer

“Were it not for the fact that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1200 years, they would swarm greater than all of the reformers ... if the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness which a man or any sect shows in suffering, then the opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer and surer than those of the Anabaptists, since there have been none in the 1200 years past that have been more generally punished or that have more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and have offered themselves to the most cruel sort of punishment, than those people.”

Cardinal Hosius, Pres. C of T 1545

“Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers. Those people, comprising bodies of Christian believers known under various names in different countries, are entirely distinct and independent of the Roman and Greek churches and have an UNKNOWN COMMUNITY OF EXISTANCE FROM APOSTOLIC DAYS DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES. Throughout this long period, they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disenfranchised, deprived of their property. Imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands, and yet they swerved not from their New Testament faith, doctrine and adherence.” (Emphasis Mine)

William C. King, “Crossing the Centuries”

“History has hitherto been written by our enemies, who never would have kept a single fact about us upon the record if they could have helped it, and yet it leaks out every now and then that certain poor people called Anabaptists were brought up for condemnation. From the days of Henry II to those of Elizabeth we hear of certain unhappy heretics who were hated of all men for the truth’s sake which was in them. We read of poor men and women, with their garments cut short, turned out into the fields to perish in the cold, and others who were burnt at Newington for the cries of Anabaptism. Long before your Protestants were known of, those horrible Anabaptists, as they were unjustly called, were protesting for the ‘One Lord, one faith one baptism.’ No sooner did the visible church begin to depart from the Gospel that these men arose to keep fast by the good old way. The priests and monks wished for peace and slumber, but there was always a Baptist or Lollard tickling men’s ears with the Holy Scriptures and calling their attention to the errors of the times. They were a poor persecuted tribe. ... At times ill-written history would have us think that they died out, so well had the wolf done his work on the sheep. Yet here we are, blessed and multiplied...”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Preacher

Anabaptist

A name given to the Baptists *by their enemies* before the 16th century. Webster says “a Protestant sectarian [*a bigoted or narrow-minded member of a sect*] of a radical movement arising in the 16th century and advocating the baptism and church membership of adult believers only, *and* the separation of church and state.”

“*Ana*” is a Greek word that means “*again*” and the entire name “Anabaptist” [lit: “again-baptizers”] was applied to those who believed and practiced what Bible-believing, separatist Baptists do today... which started as a decidedly anti-pedobaptist position!

In accord with the Scriptures, **Believer's Baptism** is *a public, visual identification with Christ* (His death, His burial [determines “mode”], His resurrection).

It has **NO saving power or grace**, but is a ***step of obedience following a person's profession of faith in Christ!***
Again, it **follows** personal salvation.

New Testament Order.....

Eight Baptist Distinctives

Biblical Authority: 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Autonomy of Local Church: 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 19, 23

Priesthood of Believer: Eph. 2:18; 1 Peter 2:5, 9

Two Offices: 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Acts 20:17-38

Individual Soul Liberty: Rom. 14:5, 12; 2 Cor. 4:2

Saved Membership: Acts 2:41-47

Two Ordinances: Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-32

Separation of Church & State: Matt. 22:15-22

