

## THE BAPTIST PRINCIPLES

1. **The teaching of Scripture:** Baptist believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament in their original writings as fully inspired of God and accept them as the supreme and final authority for faith and life. Any other practice, tradition, regulation and constitutions should submit to the authority of the Scriptures.
2. **Regeneration of the soul:** Baptist believe that Christians become Christians through rebirth by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ
3. **Believers' Baptism:** Those who believe must be baptized by full emersion under water.
4. **Freedom of Worship/Religion:** People have a God given freedom to choose their religion. Baptists believe and maintain that people should never be forced into any religion.
5. **Separation of Church and State:** Baptists believe and maintain that the church and the state are two distinct institutions and must be governed separately. In other words the church cannot be the head of the state and in the same way the state cannot be the head of the church. Christians should participate in politics but cannot impose the church governance on the running of the state. In the same way politicians and governments should be part of the church but should not impose their authority into the affairs of the church (faith and church governance).
6. **Congregational Church government:** The members of the congregation have **active participation** in the governance of the church through meetings and other structures. This means the congregation will together with its leadership to seek the mind of God relating to their ministry. This does not mean the church is governing itself, but it gives full and active support to the leadership.
7. **Autonomy of the local church:** This means the local congregation is self-supportive, self-governing and self-propagating. That means a local congregation must support itself financially, have its governance and reach out to the community on its own. Baptists believe in interdependence. We are not independent from each other as congregations, but we are interdependent in our regional setting and conventions or unions. We practice the unity of the Holy Spirit in our associations at various levels.
8. **Priesthood of believers:** Every believer has direct access to God with out any human mediator. Every believer has a God given gift to serve the church and the community as part of the body of Christ.
9. **Believe in the fundamental doctrines of the Bible:** Baptists believe that there is only one and only True God revealed in the Trinity i.e. God the Father, God the

Son and God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ, the real death of Christ on the Cross, the bodily resurrection and the ascension of Christ. We believe in the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment of all the creation by God. We believe in the church as the body of Christ. (See the statement of faith in the constitution)