



What's a Baptist?

May 24, 2020

What We Believe
An eight-week series on Valley's Statement of Beliefs

So far in our sermon series we have studied our beliefs concerning the Bible, the nature of our Triune God, the nature of us, spiritual growth, and what we believe about the church and its mission. This week we will focus on some other basics of what Baptist's believe.

THE CHURCH — We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local Church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local Church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
(Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41; Eph. 2:19-22; Eph. 5:25-27)

Christ is the Head of the Church

Our Statement of Belief concerning the church (above) recognizes the ultimate authority in our church.

[Q] Read Colossians 1:17–18, Ephesians 5:23–27 and Matthew 16:16-18. How would you describe Christ's view of His church, what He thinks and feels about it? What does He do for His church?

[Q] What are the implications for someone who says they love Jesus but not His church?

[Q] Practically speaking, what does Christ's headship mean for the ultimate authority of both church leaders and members?

[Q] Stop and pray for Valley's church leaders right now (elders, staff, volunteers). For:

- guidance for the best ways for our church to follow Christ's leading
- a love for Christ's body, the church
- submission to Christ as the Head in each leader's life

[Q] In what area of your life do you need to submit to the loving authority of Jesus this week?

All Believers are Priests

Read 1 Peter 2:5-9. We've been looking at this passage from several different angles over the course of our study series. This week we are noting that, along with Christ as the Head of the church, we do not need any human to be a mediator between us and God.

Valley's Statement of Belief #10 explains what this means for each individual. It states: *We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith...*

1 Timothy 2:5-6a says: *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all...*

[Q] Read the passages below. What did Jesus do to make it possible to approach God? Why don't we need a human priest to go between us and God?

Hebrews 10:19-22

Hebrews 4:14-16

Old Testament priests were chosen by God, not self-appointed; and they were chosen for a purpose: to serve God with their lives by offering up sacrifices. The priesthood served as a picture or "type" of the coming ministry of Jesus Christ—a picture that was then no longer needed once His sacrifice on the cross was completed. When the thick temple veil that covered the doorway to the Holy of Holies was torn in two by God at the time of Christ's death (Matthew 27:51), God was indicating that the Old Testament priesthood was no longer necessary. Now people could come directly to God through the great High Priest, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16). There are now no earthly mediators between God and man as existed in the Old Testament priesthood (1 Timothy 2:5).

gotquestions.org/priesthood-believers

[Q] Have you ever been reluctant to approach God? Or, have you taken this privilege for granted? If so, what obstacle has been in the way? We can freely approach the throne of grace, repent, receive forgiveness through Jesus anytime, anywhere! Read Jesus' invitation in Revelation 3:20. What is your response?

We Follow Christ in Baptism

[Q] Why is baptism important? Read and note Jesus' example and command in Matthew 3:13-17 and Matthew 28:19-20.

[Q] According to Romans 6:1-11, what does Christian baptism illustrate? Where do you need to be dead to sin and alive to God?

(See more on baptism at Valley at avon.valleycommunity.cc/faith-steps/get-baptized)

This week, read:

- ☐ Matthew 3
- ☐ Romans 6
- ☐ Acts 8
- ☐ Colossians 2
- ☐ Psalm 31

Take it Further: From last week- Keep getting to know your neighbors. Ask God to continue to give you opportunities for demonstrate His love. Got a story about this? Tell Mike at mguersch@valleycommunity.cc.
Read Valley's Constitution which outlines how the church is governed:
avon.valleycommunity.cc/about-us/mission-vision-values/