

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Words are important and words by necessity mean something. If we are to communicate effectively in this course, it is important for us to communicate together as a class so that we can understand and be understood! Use these sheets also to fill in words as we go throughout this class as well as referring to the predefined words.

**Affusion:** To pour on. The mode (method) of baptism used by some where the candidate has water poured on them. Such a practice is found now where in the Bible and should be rejected. We are seeing even Baptist churches in our day begin to allow and practice pouring.

**Aspersion:** The mode (method) of baptism used by many where the candidate is sprinkled with a small amount of water. Such a practice is found now where in the Bible and should be rejected.

**Anabaptist:** “ana” is a Latin term that means “re” so this term literally means re-baptizer. Baptist people down throughout history were often called Anabaptists as a derogatory term because they did not accept infant Baptism but practiced believer’s baptism only.

**Baptist:** A group of people that are Bible believers and hold to a group of principles defined in the Bible called the Baptist Distinctives. These include 1) Believer’s Baptism for Membership, 2) Autonomy of the Local Church, 3) Priesthood of the believer, 4) Two offices – Pastor and Deacon, 5) Individual Soul Liberty, 6) Separation of Church and State, 7) Two ordinances – Lord’s Supper and Baptism. Baptist have not always been called Baptists and were usually named by those who counted them their enemies. However, we will learn of people down through time since the time of the Apostles who have held to these Bible beliefs and recognize them as being “Baptists” if not by name, then by doctrine. It is important to remember that true Baptists are NOT protestants for we were never in the Catholic institution to protest its practices and beliefs and then to separate from them. We ALWAYS have been separate from them.

**Baptism - Immersion:** In the New Testament, baptism always means immersion in water except when the passage refers to Spirit Baptism. Baptism does not confer salvation on anyone, infant or otherwise, but is the testimony of a person already born again, that they are bought with a price and that price was the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This single point of contention between Baptists and all other “churches” has perhaps caused the most hatred toward us as a Baptist people through the ages.

**Catabaptist:** Baptists in history were sometimes called by this term which means to practice the method of immersion for baptism. It was also used to be a term to identify those who were “against” baptism, but that is in reference to not accepting the baptism of established State “church”.

**Church:** A called out organized assembly. A visible assembly of born again (saved) baptized believers covenanted together under New Testament law, for the purpose of carrying out the Great Commission, with an unbroken history from the personal ministry of Jesus on earth to this present day. The church is a self-governed, independent body, having Christ as the head, the Holy Spirit for its guide, and the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. If this definition is correct (and I believe it to be of course) then many institutions that call themselves a church are indeed not.

**Ecumenism:** Is the practice of being Ecumenical which means worldwide or universal. The goal of this practice is to bring all that professes to be Christian to join together in unity regardless of doctrinal differences.

**Immersion:** The mode of baptism where by the candidate is put completely under the water and then brought up out of the water by the baptizer. In Acts 8:38-39 the baptism there is described as going down into the water and then coming up out of the water.

**Ordinance:** The term ordinance in modern usage is primarily in reference to the ceremonial observances commanded by Christ to the true church. These being Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These ordinances are symbolic and memorial only in nature. This is in contrast to the Catholic and Protestant view of their “sacraments”. These institutions believe that their sacraments are a conduit of grace conferred upon the recipient from God, through the administrator (priest or minister).

**PedoBaptist:** Someone that advocates the practice of Pedobaptism, which is the practice of baptizing infants or small children regardless of the method (sprinkling, pouring, or immersion). “Pedo” means infant or child.

**Protestant:** Historically this term derived from the 16th century Protestant Reformation in Europe. The name originated with a group of German princes who protested against the pope in 1529, and has come to be applied to those denominations which arose from the Reformation era. Anglicans, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Puritans and Presbyterians are all examples of protestant institutions.

**Roman Catholic “Church”:** A false religious organization that erroneously claims to be the only true church of Christ. It is ruled by an ecclesiastical hierarchy of bishops,

archbishops, cardinals, with the pope at the top. Its headquarters is the Vatican in Rome, Italy. “Roman” describes the fact that it is headquartered in Rome. “Catholic” means universal and points to the RCC’s claim to have authority over all Christians throughout the world. The San Giovanni Laterno Church is the first church of Rome and a Latin inscription carved on the front says in translation, “MOST HOLY LATERAN CHURCH, MOTHER AND MISTRESS OF ALL CHURCHES OF THE CITY AND THE WORLD.” Catholic popes lived in the Lateran Palace until they moved to the Vatican in the 14th century.

**Sacrament:** An observance or ceremony defined by a religious institution by which their followers receive something in return such as salvation, forgiveness, etc... The use of the sacramental system by most of its users is believed to be more than symbolic in nature but, for example, the act of being baptized (even as a baby) imparts salvation to the recipient. This concept is not anywhere in scripture. The Catholic institution has seven such sacraments – 1) baptism, 2) eucharist, 3) confirmation, 4) marriage, 5) holy orders, 6) penance, 7) last rites. There is a wide range of beliefs regarding sacraments between Catholics and the various types of Protestants. The three major reformers for example, Luther, Calvin and Zwingli did not agree with each other in this matter. This word even in its origin comes through the Latin “sacramentum” and is defined as a Babylonian term meaning “mystery of a pagan religion”.

**Transelementation:** The belief that a person (priest) can actually change one element into another (regular water to holy water, regular bread in to the body of Christ, and wine into the blood of Christ).

**Transubstantiation:** The Roman Catholic doctrine that the whole substance of the bread and the wine changes into the substance of the body and blood of Christ when consecrated in the Eucharist

**World View:** A term that describes the lens through which people view and interpret the world / universe around them. There are many different world views such as humanism, naturalism, theism, pantheism, polytheism / spiritism, post modernism. These all stand in stark contrast to a world view based upon God’s precious Word. We should have a Bible world view! We understand and interpret the world around us by knowing what the Bible says.

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