

Baptists

# Baptist

- Roughly 35 million members in the US
- Largest branches in North America are:
  - Southern Baptist Convention
  - National Baptist Convention
  - National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.
  - American Baptist Churches USA
  - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
- Origins go back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Now the largest Protestant church
  
- W/thanks to Pastor Blake McKinney of First Baptist Church, Lee's Summit – **His Question for you?**
- Roughly 80 in Kansas City
- Redemption Hill Church – w/thanks to Pastor Chad Skaran

# Material Principle

## LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

## Baptist

- Soul Liberty – Your regenerated soul is free from all human teaching and influence, you are only alive in Christ
  - Anti-creedal
  - Religious liberty – free from government-imposed ideas
- Universally hold our view

# Formal Principle

## LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

## Baptist

- Scripture (OT and NT)
  - Every practice in the church must be based on it (regulative principle).

# God

LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

Baptist

- Biblical Trinity

# The Person of Jesus

## LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

## Baptist

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

# The Work of Jesus

## LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

## Baptist

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- A vicarious, substitutionary atonement leads to justification

# Doctrine of Man

## LCMS

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

## Baptist

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will - some
- Total depravity



# Salvation/Justification

## LCMS

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone

## Baptist

- Conversion
- Religious Experience
- Justification by grace through conversion
- Decisional Regeneration
- Some hold:
  - Synergism
  - Predestination
  - Once saved always saved
  - Limited atonement on the rise

# Sacraments

## LCMS

- A means of grace
- Commanded by Christ
- With a visible element
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution

## Baptist

- Immediate Grace
- Means of grace
- Ordinances
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper

# Assurance

## LCMS

- Points you to the means of grace:
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution
- Not based on you or your works, but on God and what He has done for you.

## Baptist

- Self-examination:
  - Any fruits of new birth?
  - Did you mean it when you prayed the sinner's prayer?
    - If not, let's pray it now. Did you mean it now?
- FBC – You've done nothing to earn it, you do nothing to keep it.

# Church and Ministry

## LCMS

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Marks of the Church –  
Preaching and the sacraments
- One divinely instituted office –  
the Preaching Office or the  
Office of the Keys
- Auxiliary offices are rooted in  
the Office

## Baptist

- Church is a baptized body of  
believers in covenant w/God
- Congregational Polity – self-  
governed and autonomous
- Infants can't be members
- Some teach “No believer's  
immersion = not a church”
- Only a minister of a true  
church is a true minister before  
God
- Call into ministry is immediate  
(direct from God)

# Last Things

## LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

## Baptist

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Pre-millennial
  - Dispensationalism

# Millennialism

- The Millennium is a reference to the 1000 year reign of Christ in Revelation 20:6
- A 1000 year golden age of peace and prosperity in which we reign in Christ and Satan is bound

# Postmillennialism

- Christ will return “post-” or after the millennium.
- The Christian Church must bring about the 1000 years of peace.
  - Why so many Christians still focus on the physical nation of Israel
- Was popular earlier in history, but now rare.

# Premillennialism

- Christ will return first to institute the golden 1000 years.
  - Rapture – 2<sup>nd</sup> coming that takes all Christians to be with Christ
  - Great Tribulation – time of power for the Anti-Christ
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Coming of Christ – Armageddon
  - 1000 years
  - Final coming of Christ – all are raised and judged.
- A newer concept, historically, from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century
- Quite common today among Christians, usually coupled with Dispensationalism.



# Amillennialism

- A reaction against? “A” in Greek as a prefix negates a word
  - Amillennialism then is the belief that there is no literal 1000 years, but that it’s a figurative number and we are in it now.
- Some call this “Realized Millennialism”

# Dispensationalism

- A form of premillennialism held by many Baptists, Pentecostals, and Perfectionists
- Dispensation – “a period of time during which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God.”
- In each period, God has a new revelation and a different way of dealing with humanity to help and save them.
- 7 Dispensations in human history –
  1. Innocence
  2. Conscience
  3. Human Government
  4. Promise
  5. The Law
  6. The Church – we are here. God deals with us via Gospel and Grace
  7. The Millennial Kingdom – God works according to the Sermon on the Mount. Jerusalem as the headquarters...(focus on Israel)

# Current Cultural Topics

## LCMS

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

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# Miscellaneous

## Baptist

- Some hold that Christians cannot dance, drink alcohol, etc.
- Baptists –
  - Biblical Authority
  - Autonomy of the local church
  - Priesthood of the believers
  - Two Offices
  - Individual Soul Liberty
  - Separation of Church and State
  - Two Ordinances
  - Saved and Baptized Church Membership

# Miscellaneous

## Baptist

- Theological split between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the 1990's. First Baptist Church equally supports both.
- SBC is more conservative, saw the split over authority of Scripture.
- CBF is more "moderate," saw the split over too much authority.
- Millennials are starting to draw Baptists back towards Calvinism.