

Reasons Why I cannot join your denomination – part 4  
The Baptist Church  
John 3:30-31  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show why I cannot join the Baptist denomination.

- Intro:
1. As with the previous lessons, this lesson taught because we do not love those who are a member of a denomination but because we want to encourage all to search the scriptures for the church Christ built.
  2. Let us always strive to encourage a closer look at what the Bible teaches.

I. I Cannot join your denomination because

A. It began with a man.

1. John Smyth organized the first Baptist church in London in 1607.
2. According to “History of the Baptist churches” pg 1, by A.H. Newman the name Baptist is not what they were first known as in the united states.
  - a. At first they preferred to be called “Brethren” or “Disciples of Christ” or “Christians” or “Believers”.
    - i. They did not begin to be called Baptists until 1644.

B. Which one would I join?

1. There are at least 28 different types of Baptists today.
2. Some are independent Baptist church while others belong to one of three “conventions”.
  - a. The American Baptist Convention, The National Baptist Convention of America, the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc or the Southern Baptist Convention.

C. It’s membership placement procedures.

1. Members are expected to yield to the “by laws” of the local congregation (**Mt 15:7-9**)
2. Those who wish to place membership must be accepted by a “vote” of the Congregation and then baptized in order to become of member of that congregation.
3. Members are only “added” to the local congregation, not the Lord’s church.

D. It teaches error concerning salvation.

1. Baptist believe one is only saved because God has elected that person to be saved before the foundation of the world, a doctrine known as “predestination” (Standard Manual, pg. 57) (**2 Pt 3:9, 1 Tim 2:3-4**)
2. Baptist teach a person is saved before baptism (**Acts 2:37-38, Gal 3:26-27**)
  - a. Teach that baptism is a “outward sign of an inward working”.
3. Use mechanical instruments, choirs and sometimes a “praise team” which may include a band. (**Col 3:16**)
4. Partakes of the Lord’s supper on a monthly or quarterly basis (**Acts 20:7**).

II. Lessons for us today.

A. Salvation is not possible outside of the Bible.

1. Man tries in vain to provide another way to God & Heaven. (**Pro 14:12**)
2. However, there is still only one way (**Jn 14:6**)

B. Is your church in the Bible?

1. What must one do if their “church” isn’t in the Bible?
  - a. Abandon that denomination.
2. Only denominations are not found in the Bible.
3. So the question is why be a part of a “church” not found in the Bible?

Application & Conclusion:

1. No person should be a part of any group that teaches contrary to God’s Word.
2. The way to heaven simply cannot be found in any church not found in the Bible.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9