

**I. Introduction.**

- A. Because of their firm belief in the independence of each church in all matters including doctrine, there has never been a central board or leader to interpret doctrine for Baptists in general. **Each church follows the leadership of Christ.**
- B. This has developed into a conflict of opinions among Baptists concerning doctrine and has resulted in many different “kinds” of Baptist churches.

**II. Southern Baptist Convention.**

- A. The formation of the Southern Baptist Convention was discussed in Lesson 50, Section VI.
- B. We wish now to examine its doctrinal stand.
  - 1. The Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention believe that they can be associated with the convention without losing their independency and sovereignty.
  - 2. Within the convention there are differences of doctrine among the churches concerning the Local Church, the second coming, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, etc. So, it would be difficult to give a doctrinal position for the convention.
  - 3. In the majority, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention stay with the historic Baptist doctrines.

**III. The American Baptist Convention.**

- A. This northern group is more liberal and modern in their doctrines.
- B. They have drifted toward interdenominationalism – a tendency to tone down distinctive Baptist doctrine for the sake of unity with other denominations.

**IV. Negro Baptists.**

- A. The Negro Baptist churches in the United States two large **organizations**:
  - 1. The National Baptist Convention of the United States, Inc. with 4,385,000 members.
  - 2. The National Baptist Convention of America with 2,594,000 members.
- B. Negro Baptists generally follow the doctrine of the white churches in each area.

**V. Freewill Baptists.**

- A. There are some 3,467 Freewill Baptist Churches with a membership 255,000 members.
- B. They differ from other Baptists in the following ways:
  - 1. They are Armenian as opposed to Calvinistic.  
[\[Arminianism and Calvinism are two distinct theological systems within Protestant Christianity that differ primarily on the doctrines of election, grace, and free will. Calvinism emphasizes God's absolute sovereignty and predestination, while Arminianism places more emphasis on human free will and God's foreknowledge of human choices. Visit Google: Armenian as opposed to Calvinistic.\]](#)

2. They practice “open communion.”
3. They maintain “foot washing” as a church ordinance.
4. They anoint the sick with oil.

#### **VI. Primitive Baptists (Hardshell).**

- A. Primitive Baptists have about 1,726 churches with about 70,000 members.
- B. Primitive Baptists differ widely in their interpretation of many doctrines.
  1. Their main claim for difference comes from their emphasis of Calvinism which denied man any part in their redemption. Man’s spiritual condition was determined by God before creation.
  2. Primitive Baptists generally practice foot washing and are opposed to musical instruments in the church, missions, Sunday Schools, etc.

#### **VII. General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.**

- A. This group of churches withdrew from the American Baptist Convention in protest to its hierarchy and modernism. They now have about 1,000 churches.
- B. Generally, these churches are fundamental but many lean too close to the errors of the American Baptist Contention.

#### **VIII. Many Other Groups:**

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| A. American Baptist Association.                   | J. Independent Baptist Church of America.  |
| B. Baptistry Missionary Association.               | K. National Baptist Evangelical Life and Soul-Saving Assembly of the United States of America. |
| C. Christian Unity Baptist Association             | L. Regular Baptists.   |
| D. Conservative Baptist Association.               | M. Separate Baptists.  |
| E. Duck River and Kindred Association of Baptists. | N. Seventh-day Baptists.   |
| F. General Baptists.                               | O. Two-Seed-in-the Spirit Pedestrian Baptists.   |
| G. World Baptist Association.                      | P. United American Free-will Baptists.   |
| H. Baptist Bible Fellowship.                       | Q. United Baptists.  |
| I. General Six-Principle Baptists.                 |  |

#### **IX. Baptists.**

- A. There are those Baptist churches who do not identify themselves with any of these groups but cling to the historic Baptist message and method.
- B. These are the hundreds of loyal, independent, fundamental Baptist churches all over the United States.