

S -

We believe that the leadership of the church be invested in its spiritual leaders and members. Each member will know and seek God's leading in their life and church family.

T -

God has given two levels of leadership to the local church, Elders and Deacons.

S -

We believe that government should not be in a position to tell the church what they should believe, but that the church should influence the society in which they live, of what God teaches about right and wrong.

#### **What are benefits of being a devoted to a local church?**

1. Acts 2:42-47
2. Ephesians 4:11-16
3. Hebrews 10:24-25
4. Hebrews 13:17



#### ***The Church***

Most people in our culture today have misconceptions of what the church really is.

Chuck Colson has defined three:

1. A
2. A
3. A

Many even view the church like a leisure activity in which we go to get entertained.

In this lesson we will discover what God's word has to say about the church and how it should work.

## What is the nature and purpose of the Church?

1. The Greek word for church is *ekklesia* and it means  
Ephesians 5:25
2. What is the church?
  - a. All \_\_\_\_\_believers for all time Ephesians 5:25
  - b.
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ church
3. Who is the head of the church?  
Colossians 1:18
4. What should a New Testament church be like?

\_\_\_\_\_God and people so that we will experience Christ through our relationships. Matthew 22:37-39

\_\_\_\_\_through personal and corporate study of God's Word, so that we will know God better.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

\_\_\_\_\_out to a lost world through acts of generosity, so that others will come to know him.

Matthew 28:19-20

The 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Jerusalem, Acts 2:42-47

## What is a baptistic church?

*It is a popular misunderstanding about Baptist to think that their chief concern is with the administration of baptism. The convictions of Baptists are based primarily on the spiritual nature of the church.*

Dr. Walter Elwell,  
Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

You will notice that many churches believe parts of these doctrines, but not necessarily all of them. To be baptistic is to embrace all of the following beliefs:

**B -**

We believe in the soul authority and sufficiency of the Bible.

**A -**

We believe that each church should have the liberty to follow the leading of God. That the leadership of the church should not be invested in any one person or hierarchy, but in the plurality of leadership and the local fellowship of believers.

**P -**

We believe that every believer has direct access to God and that they are given the responsibilities of a New Testament Priest.

**T -**

We believe in two ordinances and not sacraments. They are done as a testament, not to impart grace. Baptism and Communion.

**I -**

We believe that every believer can go directly to God, understand the Bible, and understand the will of God through the Holy Spirit.