

SBC FOUNDING PRINCIPLES & DOCUMENTS

SBC Constitution, 1845

ARTICLE II "It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad..."

ARTICLE IV "While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention."

The first SBC Convention in 1845, W.B. Johnson, President

"WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED FOR OUR BASIS NO NEW CREED! ACTING IN THIS MATTER UPON BAPTIST'S AVERSION FOR ALL CREEDS BUT THE BIBLE!"

"Christ has already given the Revelation of his will in a complete and perfect code of precepts (the Bible). So the impropriety of having any human selection or compilation of God's Word as a standard of faith and practice, is manifestly evident!"

"Can any man present God's System in a selection or compilation of some of its parts, as better than God has done it himself, in a whole in his own Book?"

"Is it respectful to our Great Teacher, to turn away from his direct teachings to human compilations, in order to learn from them what our Master has required us to learn from Him directly, in his incomparable book, the Holy Bible?" THIS is the manner by which UNITY is to be secured and preserved: NOT by confessions of faith, written codes, or formulas framed by man as the bonds of union for the churches of Christ."

The Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Preamble

1. "THESE STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE A CONSENSUS OF OPINION"
2. "WE DO NOT REGARD THESE AS COMPLETE STATEMENTS OF FAITH, HAVING ANY QUALITY OF FINALITY OR INFALLIBILITY."
3. "BAPTIST ARE FREE TO REVISE THESE STATEMENTS OF FAITH."
4. "ANY GROUP OF BAPTISTS, LARGE OR SMALL, HAVE THE INHERENT RIGHT TO DRAW UP FOR THEMSELVES A CONFESSION OF FAITH."
5. "THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR FAITH AND PRACTICE AMONG BAPTISTS IS THE SCRIPTURES."
6. "CONFESSIONS ARE ONLY GUIDES IN INTERPRETATION, HAVING NO AUTHORITY OVER THE CONSCIENCE"
7. "BAPTISTS DENY THE RIGHT OF ANY RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE A CONFESSION OF FAITH UPON A CHURCH OR BODY OF CHURCHES."

"Under Baptist polity, which asserts the autonomy of congregations, a local church is free to ignore it. We're not trying to force our beliefs on any individual or church on the face of the Earth."
— Adrian Rogers, chairman of revisions committee." June 15, 2000

John 3:8
The wind blows where He wishes.

GRANTING GRACE SPACE

Romans 14 The Great Elbow Room Chapter

One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

He who observes the day, observes it **for the Lord**, and he who eats, does so **for the Lord**, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, **for the Lord** he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore . . .

I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.
(Personal Conviction vs. Universal Command)

Romans 14:5-6 ,13-14