

River REFRESH

Love for the Church

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

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DENOMINATIONS



Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:18-19

"Denominations can be very good things. They can witness to the fact that somebody, somewhere actually believed in something at some point in time."

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

First-level Issues	Essential for the Christian faith	Dogma	Fundamental teachings
Second-level Issues	Crucial for church health but not essential for Christian faith	Doctrine	Denominational distinctives
Third-level Issues	Important but not essential for the Christian faith or crucial for church health	Disputable Matters	Matters of conscience

SOURCE: ANDY NASELI

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

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Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

1. Biblical Authority

“The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”

– 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH, 1:1

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience

“Liberty of conscience is the most fundamental of all Baptist distinctives; it arises from our understanding of the relation between biblical covenants and gives shape to our other distinctives—baptism, local church governance, and religious liberty.”

– MATTHEW EMERSON & LUCAS STAMPS

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience
3. Believer's Baptism

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1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience
3. Believer's Baptism
4. Regenerate Church Membership

"The members of these churches are saints because they have been called by Christ, and because they visibly manifest and give evidence of their obedience to that call by their profession and walk."

– 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH, 26:6

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience
3. Believer's Baptism
4. Regenerate Church Membership
5. Local Church Autonomy
6. Congregational Governance

“To each of these churches therefore gathered, according to his mind declared in his word, he has given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline, which he has instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power.”

– 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH, 26:7

Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience
3. Believer's Baptism
4. Regenerate Church Membership
5. Local Church Autonomy

"Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner... Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament."

– THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000,
XIV COOPERATION

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“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

MATTHEW 18:15–21

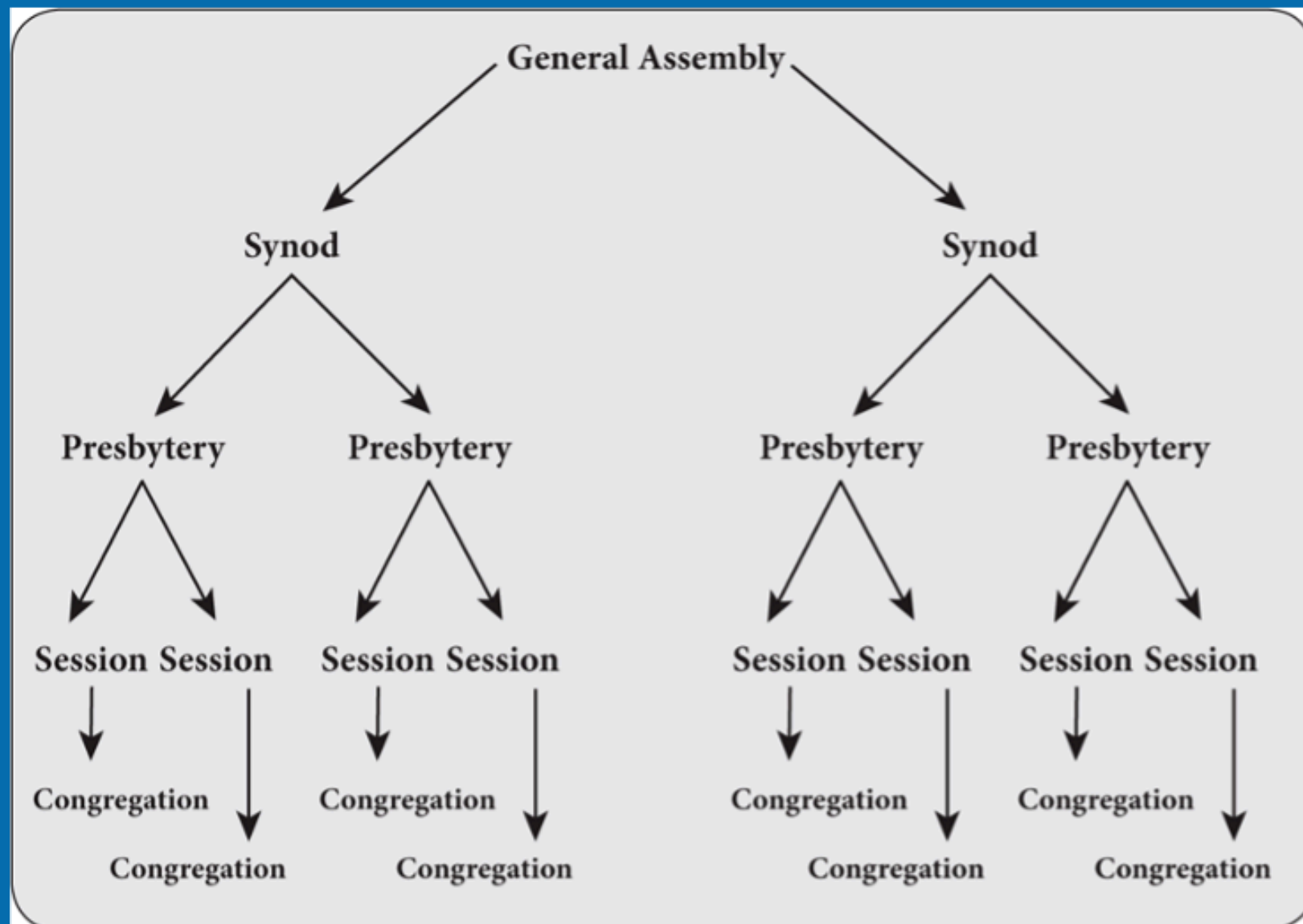
Pt. 2 – What is a Baptist?

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

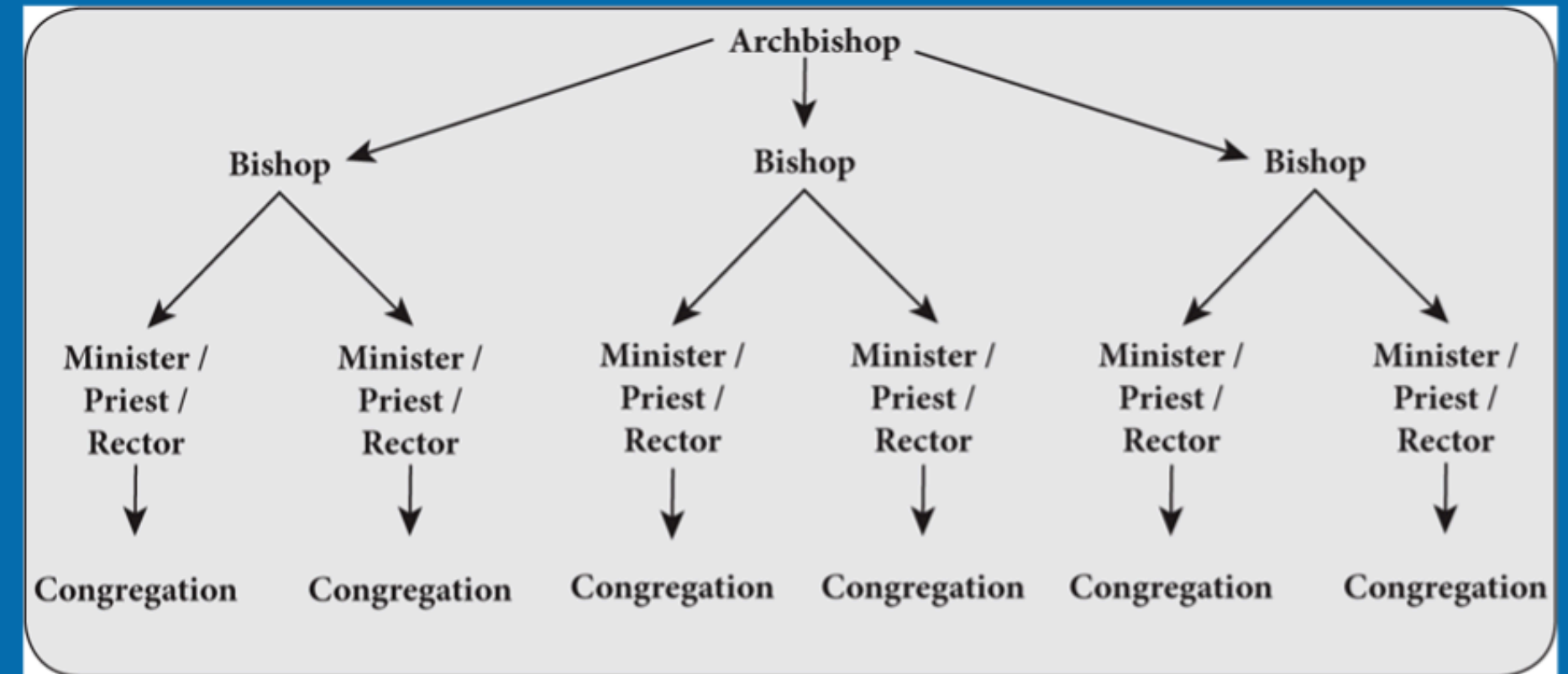
MATTHEW 18:15–21

THREE GOVERNANCES

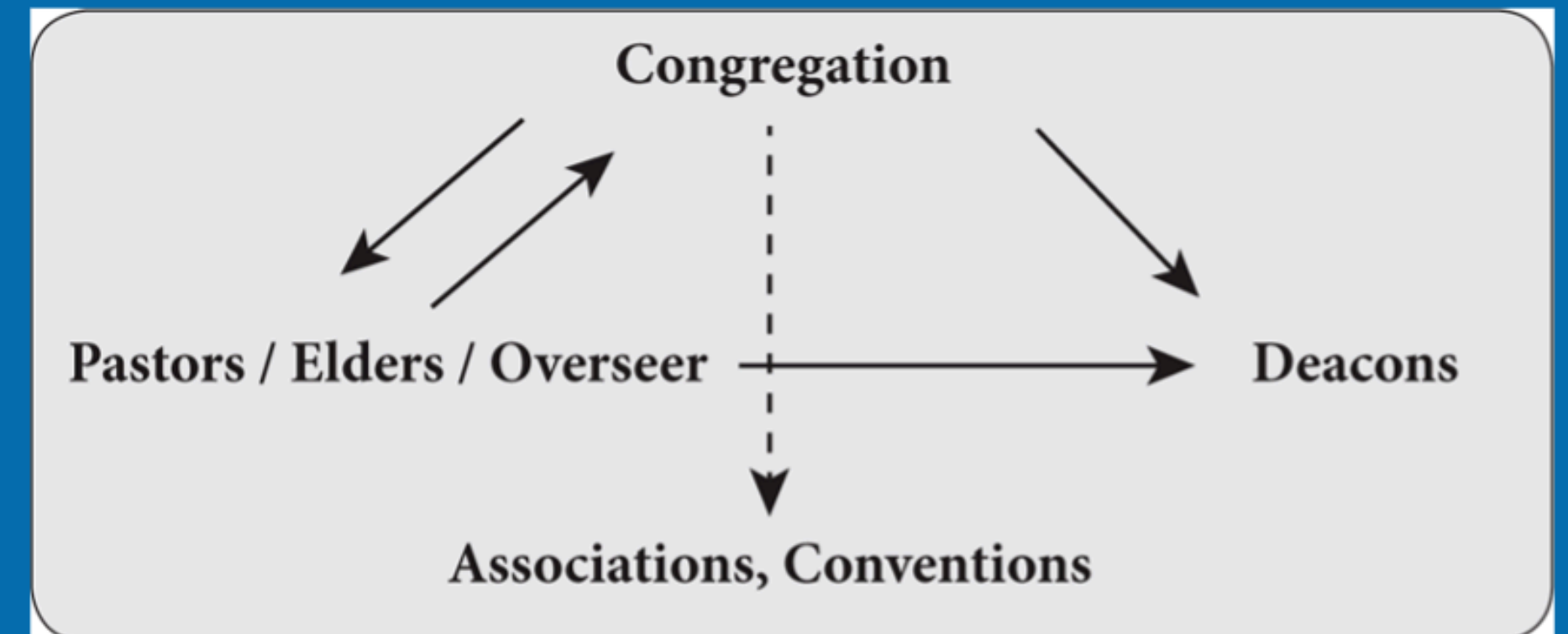
Presbyterian



Episcopalian



Congregational



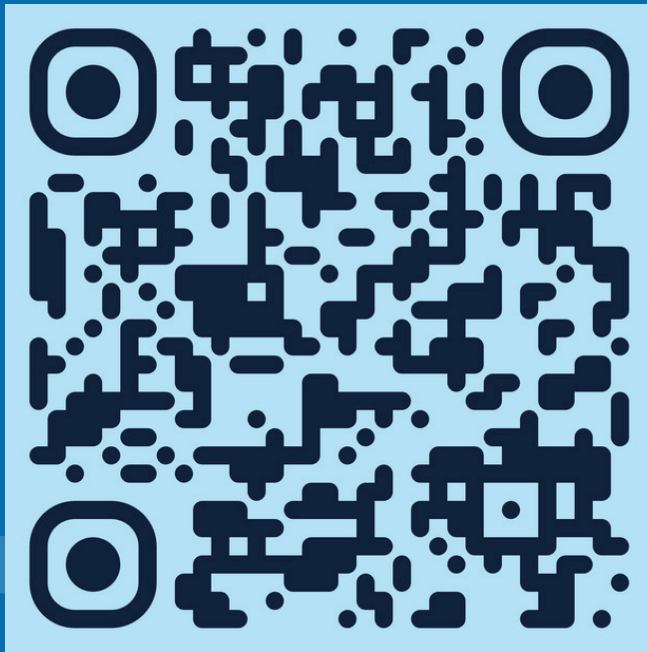
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1. Biblical Authority
2. Liberty of Conscience
3. Believer's Baptism
4. Regenerate Church Membership
5. Local Church Autonomy
6. Congregational Governance
7. Separation of Church & State

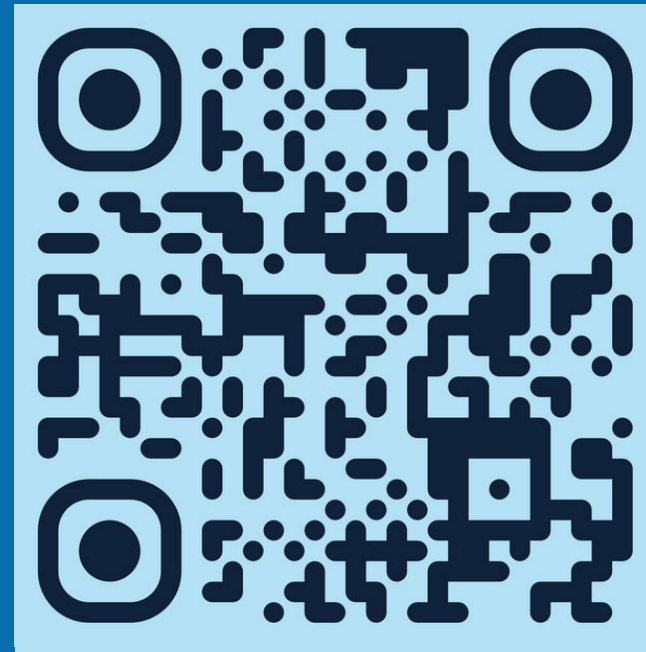
"God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, has ordained civil magistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good; and to this end has armed them with the power of the sword, for defence and encouragement of them that do good, and for the punishment of evil doers."

– 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH, 24:1

RESOURCES



The 1689 Baptist
Confession of Faith



9 Marks



The Baptist Vision:
Faith and Practice
for a Believer's Church