

New Member's Class Study Guide

1. Know the following acronym for the Baptist Distinctives exactly as described below:

- **B**iblical Authority
The Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 4:13–17; 2 Timothy 3:15–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20–21)
- **A**utonomy of the Local Assembly (from any state or hierarchy)
The assembly is self-governing (Acts 6:1–5), not a part of, or answerable to, a hierarchical system (Matthew 18:17). Christ alone is the authority (Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:4; Ephesians 5:23).
- **P**riesthood of the Believer
The individual has personal access to commune with God by one mediator alone, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5; 1 Timothy 2:5).
- **T**wo Ordinances (Water Baptism, Lord's Supper)
- **I**ndividual Soul Liberty & Responsibility
The believer is answerable only to God for his actions (Romans 14:5, 12), though he certainly has a responsibility to not be the cause of offence (Romans 14:13), while still being able to build up others with the truth (Romans 14:19; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 1:9).
- **S**aved, Water-immersed Membership
The local assembly is comprised of those who have testified of their faith in Christ as Savior by water immersion (baptism) (Matthew 18:19; Acts 2:41, 8:36).
- **T**wo Offices (Pastor, Deacon)
Only two officials are recognized in the New Testament assembly (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1), "pastors" and "deacons".
- **S**eparation
 - Of the state from the assembly (Romans 13:1–7; Matthew 22:15–29; Acts 5:29)
 - Of the assembly from the world (Romans 12:1–2; 1 John 2:15–17)
 - Of the assembly from errant teaching (Jude 3)

2. Name **at least 3** of our "spiritual ancestors" who did not go by the name "Baptist".

3. What is **one danger** of misunderstanding the word "church"?

4. Understand the difference between **spirit immersion** and **spirit filling**.

5. Name **at least 3** things membership does for you.

6. What is the primary spiritual gift/ability?

7. **Essay:** explain in detail Matthew 5:23–24 and Matthew 18:15–17.