



Ready Reference

A NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST IS A CHRISTIAN WHO:

- Believes God is revealed through His son, Jesus Christ
- Acknowledges Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior
- Professes the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments
- Believes that church membership is only for those who have personally experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ
- Publicly affirms new life in Christ through the ordinance of believer's baptism by immersion, which symbolizes the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as the believer's death to the old life and rising to new life in Jesus Christ
- Seeks to live a Christian life and remains a faithful member of the church, and supports it with worship participation, prayers, gifts and service
- Regularly observes the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ for our salvation
- Believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the only infallible authority for the Christian; uses the Bible for teaching and guidance, studies it daily, with the right to interpret the Scriptures through the illumination of the Holy Spirit
- Believes in soul liberty — the right of every person to approach God directly without another person as a mediator — and so communicates daily with the Lord
- Seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit and demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit in life
- Responsibly and prayerfully participates in determining and implementing the goals and ministries of the local church
- Enthusiastically participates in the worship, Bible study, and outreach of the local church
- Helps the local church to be true to the teachings and practices of the New Testament
- Evidences new life in Christ through a witness before fellow Christians and others in daily contacts
- Believes that the local church is a spiritual democracy with all members equal; affirms a congregational form of church government
- Defends religious freedom for all and the separation of church and state — neither one controlling the other