

Why I Am Not a Protestant

Session 2 | September 10, 2017 | Dr. Randy White

If Baptists Were Protestant...

- Why Did the Protestants Kill Them?
 - "All Anabaptists and rebaptized persons, male or female, of mature age, shall be judged and brought from natural life to death, by fire, or sword or otherwise, as may benefit the persons, without preceding trial by spiritual judges."
 - Baptists like Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, Baithauser Hubmier, Dirk Willems, etc.
- Why did the Baptists exist before the Protestants?
 - Baptists never left the Catholic empire...because they were never in it.
 - The Waldensians, Hutterites, etc.
 - "By the Reformation, Martin Luther's assistants complained that the Baptists in Bohemia and Moravia were so prevalent, they were like weeds."
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/Baptists.html>)
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Baptists in America

- From the beginning, Baptists in America were distinctively not Protestant.
- Most pilgrims were either *separatists* who were revolting from the Church of England or *puritans* who were purifying the Church of England, but *both were associated with the Church of England*.
 - The *separatists* started the Congregational churches.
 - Massachusetts (to 1833)
 - Connecticut (1818)
 - New Hampshire (1877)
 - The *puritans* remained in the Church of England.
 - Virginia (to 1830)
 - New York (1846)
 - Maryland (1867)
 - North Carolina (1875)
 - South Carolina (1868)
 - Colonies with no state supported church-
 - Delaware (chartered by the South Company of Sweden)
 - Rhode Island (chartered by the Baptist, Roger Williams)
 - Georgia (but required representatives to be "of the Protestant religion")
 - Pennsylvania (chartered by the Quakers)
 - New Jersey
- Important Baptist figures
 - Roger Williams – originally a puritan, started the First Baptist Church in America - 1638
 - Isaac Backus – along with others, established Brown University - 1764
 - John Leland

The fundamental differences between a the Reformation and the Radical Reformation

- The Radical Reformation carried the idea of “a free church in a free state,” while the Reformation found its power by using the power of the state.
 - Protestantism required the use of state control, finances, and manipulation in order to change society.
 - Radical Reformation was so strongly against government involvement in church and church involvement in government that they were accused of being anarchists.
- A regenerate church membership.
 - Protestants both then and now have no problem with unsaved members.
 - R.C. Sproul, in *Essentials of the Christian Faith* teaches the Protestant (and unbiblical) view of Baptism. For Protestants, Baptism is the grounds of church membership, not regeneration. Sproul says, “The validity of baptism does not rest upon the character of the minister who performs it or the character of the person who receives it. Baptism is a sign of the promise of God of salvation to all who believe in Christ. Since it is God’s promise, the validity of the promise rests on the trustworthiness of the character of God. Because baptism is the sign of God’s promise, it is not to be administered to a person more than once. To be baptized more than once is to cast a shadow of doubt on the integrity and sincerity of God’s promise.”
- The doctrine of separation.
 - The protestant church promotes ecumenicalism while the radical reformation is strongly opposed.
 - From the Schleithem Confession Adopted by a Swiss Brethren Conference, February 24, 1527 – *“From this we should learn that everything which is not united with our God and Christ cannot be other than an abomination which we should shun and flee from. By this is meant all Catholic and Protestant works and church services, meetings and church attendance, drinking houses, civic affairs, the oaths sworn in unbelief and other things of that kind, which are highly regarded by the world and yet are carried on in flat contradiction to the command of God, in accordance with all the unrighteousness which is in the world. From all these things we shall be separated and have no part with them for they are nothing but an abomination, and they are the cause of our being hated before our Christ Jesus, Who has set us free from the slavery of the flesh and fitted us for the service of God through the Spirit Whom He has given us.”*
(<http://www.anabaptists.org/history/the-schleithem-confession.html>)
- The practice of church discipline.
 - This is an outgrowth of a regenerate church membership.
- Often (but not exclusively) associated with pacifism.
- Confessional, not creedal.
 - “No creed but the Bible” was often their slogan.

About the Baptists

- Baptist groups are a mixture of reformers and radical reformers.
- The clearly non-protestant groups *from their beginning* are Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, Mennonite Brethren, and Brethren Churches.