
Key Characteristics of Northridge Baptist Church

1. We Are **Fundamental** – We ascribe to and boldly defend the core truths of Biblical Christianity:
 - The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8-9).
 - The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27).
 - The Blood Atonement (Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12-14).
 - The Bodily Resurrection (Luke 24:36-46; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 15:14-15).
 - The Literal, Bodily Return of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 1
2. We Are **Evangelical** – We believe in salvation by belief (faith) alone through Christ’s death and resurrection. (Eph 2:8-9)
3. We Are **Dispensational** – We understand that God has revealed Himself and His expectations to mankind in different ways at different times. What God revealed concerning Himself and what He expected of mankind was (or will be) different for Adam & Eve (differing even before and after the fall), Noah, the Patriarchs, Moses & the Israelites, the Church, and the Millennial kingdom. Though God worked in different ways at different times, *salvation has only and always been by grace through belief in the promise of God, ultimately based upon the redemptive work of Jesus' substitutionary death and resurrection* (Gen 15:6; Rom 3:19-26; 4:18-26; Rev 13:8).
 - Literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation (it says what it means and means what it says – not allegorical). This includes a literal interpretation of creation, which is foundational to accurate interpretation of the entire Word of God.
 - Israel and the Church are separate and distinct. God will keep his promises to the nation Israel.
4. We Are **Cessationist** – We believe that the “sign” gifts have ceased. We believe that God has completed the revelation of His written Word, and that it is complete. We are thus not “charismatic.”
5. We Are **Baptist** – We identify with Baptists because of the Biblical truths that they embrace. It is not the name which is significant, but the beliefs that the name represents. Any church holding the name is only as Baptist as it chooses. A name in no way guarantees a church’s orthodoxy or tradition. It could also be argued that such a name can be a hindrance. Any such denominational title is certainly not a Biblical requirement but at best a preference. We believe that we will be more effective and Biblical by holding to a name that accurately describes us, rather than hoping that someone identifies us correctly by holding to some historical denominational name.
 - B** – Biblical Authority
 - A** – Autonomy of the Local Church
 - P** – Priesthood of the Believer
 - T** – Two Ordinances: Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
 - I** – Individual Soul Liberty
 - S** – Saved, Baptized Church Membership
 - T** – Two Offices: Pastors/Elders/Overseers & Deacons
 - S** – Separation of Church and State
6. We Are **Family-Rooted** – We believe that God designed the family to be the incubator and training ground for children. The church is to assist but not to replace the parents. The church should design its programs around helping parents fulfill their responsibilities rather than taking those responsibilities away from the parents. Our goal is to minister to families as families, within the family structure, as well as to each individual. This displays itself in a balanced view with a lesser emphasis on age-segregated programs. We embrace and emphasize the foundational family truths set forth by God from creation:
 - Complementarian (not Egalitarianism) – Men and women are equal in value but distinct in roles.
 - Roles of men & women are distinct in the home, the church, and the world.
 - The blessing of children.
 - The responsibility of parents in raising their children.
 - The responsibility of children to respect, honor, and obey their parents.
7. We Are **Christ-Ruled, Pastor-Led** – Led by Christ by means of His Word. Leaders are to lead the flock to follow God. Leaders are given to lead, feed, and protect. They are to be gentle, patient, and lead by teaching and example. The multiplicity of leadership is what we consider Biblical, normal, safe, beneficial, and stable.