
**Key Characteristics of
Northridge Baptist Church**

1. We are _____ – We ascribe to and boldly defend the basic truths of Biblical Christianity:
 - The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb 1:8-9).
 - The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27).
 - The Blood Atonement (Acts 20:28; Rom 3:25, 5:9; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:12-14).
 - The Bodily Resurrection (Luke 24:36-46; 1 Cor 15:1-4, 15:14-15).
 - The Literal, Bodily Return of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 1)
2. We are _____ – We believe in salvation by faith (belief) alone in Christ's death & resurrection. (Eph 2:8-9) We believe that a major purpose of the church is to share the Gospel.
3. We are _____ – 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 different for Adam & Eve (differing even before and after the fall), Noah, the Patriarchs, Moses & the Israelites, the Church, and will be in the Millennial kingdom. Though God works 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). Two main tenants of dispensationalism are:
 - 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 _____ – We believe that the "sign" gifts have ceased. We believe that God has completed the revelation of His Word. We are thus not "charismatic." We study, believe, & follow the *written Word*.
5. We are _____ – We identify with Baptists because of the Biblical truths that they embrace. A church is not "Baptist" because of its name but because of its *beliefs* &

practices. A name in no way guarantees a church's orthodoxy. Such a name could even be a hindrance. A denominational title is not a Biblical requirement but is at best a preference. We believe that we will be more Biblical and effective by holding to a name that accurately describes us, rather than hoping that someone identifies us correctly by holding to some denominational name.

- B – Biblical Authority
- A – Autonomy of the Local Church
- P – Priesthood of the Believer
- T – Two Ordinances: Believer's Baptism & 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 _____ **-Focused** – We believe God designed marriage as the basic unit of society, and 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. We design our 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*. Our ministry contains elements geared to the entire congregation together, including family units, as well as age-segregated elements designed to minister to individuals. We encourage parents to be the primary spiritual trainers of their own children. We embrace & emphasize foundational truths set forth by God from creation:
 - Men and women are equal in value but distinct in roles. Complementarian (not Egalitarian)
 - Roles of men & women are distinct in the home, the church, and the world.
 - Children are a blessing from the Lord.
 - Parents are responsible to raise their children.
 - Children are responsible to respect, honor, and obey their parents.
7. We are _____ **-Ruled**, _____ **-Led** – We are led by Christ by means of His Word. God chooses leaders to lead the flock *to follow God*. Leaders are given to lead, feed, & protect. Leaders are to be gentle, patient, & lead by teaching & by example. Having more than one pastor is Biblically ideal, normal, safe, beneficial, and stable.

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