Independent Fundamental Baptist Catholicism

Is it possible that Independent Fundamental Baptists have elevated unscriptural traditions ABOVE the King James Bible? **YES!!!**

Matthew 15:1 ¶ Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,
Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.
Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?
Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.
Matthew 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is* a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;
Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**
Matthew 15:7 *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.
Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, **teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

This sermon is NOT about IFB doctrines!

It is about IFB "church" practices and the insistence that ALL Bible believers submit to their system!

What is the history of Baptist church buildings?

Article by Dr. Vernon C. Lyons
http://www.hvbdc.com/articles/baptist.html

"People are usually put in one of three religious groups. If you are not a Jew or a Roman Catholic, then automatically you are a Protestant. Consequently, Baptists are usually called "Protestants." However, this does not match the facts. ***Baptists never have been Protestants****."*

True for early 17th century Baptist groups, but NOT true for today! Modern Baptists do practice much of Catholicism with their building services.

"Protestants date from the sixteenth century. They are the Lutherans, the Reformed, and others ***who were once Roman Catholics and left the Roman Catholic faith to start denominations of their own****. The Baptists never left the Roman Catholic church as did Luther, Calvin and Zwingli.* ***They never left because they were never in****. They did not begin their existence at the time of the Reformation, but hundreds of years prior to the Reformation."*

Again, this is not entirely true. We will see that many early Baptist leaders WERE formerly Anglican which is just another branch of Catholicism.

Wikipedia on Roger Williams
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Williams_(theologian)

"Although he took holy orders in the Church of England, he had become a Puritan at Cambridge, forfeiting any chance of a place of preferment in the Anglican church."

Wikipedia on John Smyth
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Smyth_(Baptist_minister)

"Smyth was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1594 in England. Soon after his ordination, he broke with the Church of England and left for Holland where he and his small congregation began to study the Bible ardently. He briefly returned to England."

From this we can see that two of the biggest names from Baptist history were in fact former Anglicans. Did either of these two men bring along any Anglican/Catholic baggage when they left their system? We will see later on in this study.

Back to the article by Vernon C. Lyons:

"Doctrinally Baptists Are Not Protestants
The viewpoint that Baptists share common doctrinal ground with Protestant groups is not an accurate reporting of the facts. There are six striking differences.

1. *Baptists believe with all their hearts that **God's Word alone is sufficient for** faith and **practice**. We read "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine..." (II Timothy 3:16). Various Protestant denominations have creeds, **catechisms** and assorted doctrinal standards. **Baptists hold to the Bible alone**.*

2. *Baptists believe that Christ and only Christ is the Head of the Church even as the Scripture says, "Christ is the head of the church" (Ephesians 5:23). **There is no man who has the oversight of Baptist churches**. Baptists have no denomination in the sense of an organization that controls local congregations. Each local church is autonomous and **accountable only to Christ**, who is its Head. A Baptist church, while fellowshipping with congregations of like faith and practice, has no earthly headquarters. Its headquarters is in Heaven..*

3. *Baptists believe from their hearts in a free church in a free state. Christ plainly taught that the state and the church each had its own realm when he said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things which are God's" (Matthew 22:21). **Baptists are vigorously opposed to union of state and church and believe that a state controlled church is a wretched excuse for Christianity and a plain departure from Scripture**. All of the Protestant Reformers fastened state churches upon their followers.*

4. *Baptists believe strongly in individual accountability to God because the Scriptures clearly teach that "every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). A priest cannot answer for you, a church cannot answer for you to God. God-parents cannot answer for you. No one is saved because of what his parents believe. No one is ,saved because of his identification with any religion. He will account for himself to God. Protestants .generally do not hold this scriptural doctrine.*

5. *Baptist people furthermore have always held to believers' baptism. None of the Protestant Reformers held this Bible teaching. In the Scriptures, faith and repentance always preceded baptism. On the day of Pentecost Peter plainly told the people, "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). This obviously means that there is no infant baptism since infants are incapable of repenting. No unbelievers are to be baptized. The Reformers followed Rome in their teaching on baptism. Baptists have held steadfastly to the doctrine of Christ and His Apostles on this point.*

6. *Baptists, on the basis of Scripture, have always held to a* ***regenerate church membership****; that is, a membership that is made up only of people who give a credible profession of faith in Christ. In the apostolic church, only those who became believers, those who received the Word of God and who had repented of their sins, were baptized and received as church members (Acts 2:41). There was no automatic or formalistic membership in apostolic churches nor in Baptist churches today.*

From the review of these simple points it is more than clear that doctrinally Baptists are not Protestants."

Sounds good, but there are multiple problems with claiming the above points.

1. Modern day Baptist churches are doing MANY things which have no basis in scripture!
2. Many IFB practices are straight out of the Catholic catechism, and NOT found in the KJV Bible!
3. Points 2 and 3 are directly contradicted by IFB churches who are under 501c3 incorporation!
4. I have been to many different IFB churches, and I can assure you that they are NOT made up entirely of a "regenerate church membership"!

"Baptists have never been linked with Protestants and have never been identified with the Roman Catholic Church. Through the years before and after the Reformation, they have maintained their identity and been faithful to the Scriptures. ***Real Baptists hold to the plain teaching of Christ and the Apostles****."*

"Baptists are not Protestants but hold tenaciously to the original precepts and ***practices*** *of Christ and the apostles. Baptists believe the pure Word of God to be sufficient authority on all matters.* ***Baptists reject all human religious traditions and practices that have originated since the time of the apostles****."*

The above two paragraphs contain some outright LIES!

1. There are NO buildings called "churches" in the New Testament!
2. There are NO altar calls!
3. There are NO Sunday schools!
4. There are NO choirs!
5. There are NO revival meetings!
6. There are NO Wednesday evening prayer meetings!
7. There are NO social events!
8. There are NO Bible Universities!
9. There are NO special outfits for worship!

Modern IFB "churches" do MANY things which have NO basis in scripture!

A Brief Survey of Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches
What are their Beliefs and History
Compiled by Cooper P. Abrams, III
All Rights Reserved
http://bible-truth.org/BaptistHistory.html

"WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH?
The name Independent Fundamental Baptist Church is used traditionally by churches which pattern themselves ***strictly after the example of the early church****, as found in the New Testament. Today the name Baptist is used by many churches that are* ***not following the teachings of the New Testament****."*

He actually condemns all IFB church buildings!

"Others have to a lesser degree compromised the Word of God by their teaching, ***practices****, and church polity by trying to conform to* ***popular religious trends****. These worldly churches still call themselves "Baptists," but in fact they do not believe or practice what true Baptists have historically believed and more importantly, what the Word of God says. The true Independent Fundamental Baptists have no association or fellowship with these churches because they teach or practice things contrary to the New Testament."*

Modern IFB "churches" conformed to the "popular religious trends" of their day way back in the early 1700's. We will see later that many of the early Baptists actually opposed the whole church building system.

"True Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches uphold the purest teachings of the early church as revealed in the New Testament."

Again, this is an outright lie. IFB "churches" do NOT uphold the purest teachings of the early church.

Now look at this next admission!

"When the Roman Emperor declared Christianity the religion of Rome, he "converted" hordes of pagans that made up the Empire. ***Pagan temples became the meeting houses for "Christians."****"*

Question:
If the Roman Catholic church transformed pagan temples into meeting houses for Christians, then where did Independent Fundamental Baptists get their buildings from?

PAGANISM!

Ecclesiastes 1:15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

1 Corinthians 10:20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils**, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.
1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.
1 Corinthians 10:22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

“There is no way to do a wrong thing the right way.” (Dr. Paul Glanville M.D.)

It is hypocritical for IFB churches to condemn CCM for being worldly, when they themselves have adapted PAGAN temples and made them “Christian”!

<u>Please notice the PAGAN Greek Amphitheater design:</u>

<u>Now notice these Baptist “churches”:</u>

First Baptist Church of Raytown

First Baptist Church of Newport News, VA

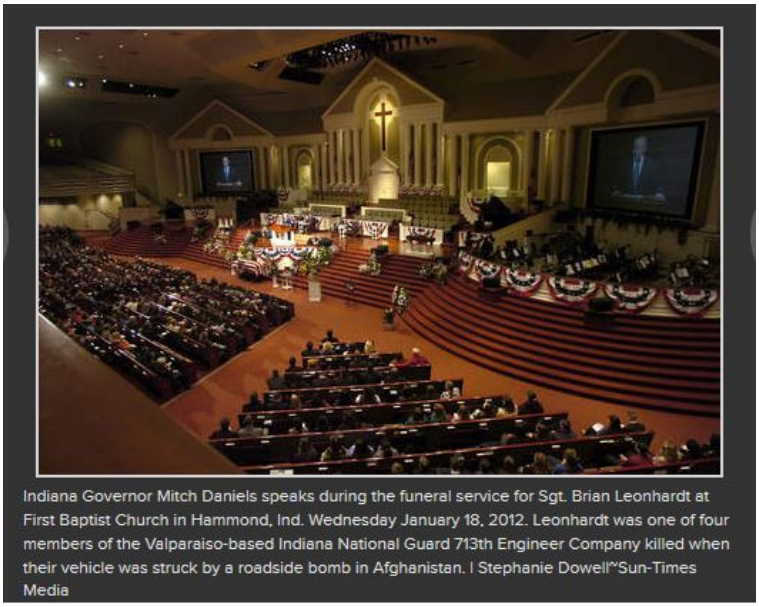
Prestonwood Baptist Church Plano, TX

Second Baptist Church Houston, TX

Yonsei Central Baptist Church Seoul, South Korea

Jack Hyles Church
First Baptist Church of Hammond, IN

<u>But what about the exterior of the ancient PAGAN Greek buildings?</u>



Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels speaks during the funeral service for Sgt. Brian Leonhardt at First Baptist Church in Hammond, Ind. Wednesday January 18, 2012. Leonhardt was one of four members of the Valparaiso-based Indiana National Guard 713th Engineer Company killed when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. | Stephanie Dowell~Sun-Times Media

Why is both the interior and exterior of Jack Hyles church patterned after Greek pagan temples?

What about Charles Haddon Spurgeon's London Metropolitan Tabernacle?

It doesn't get much more blatant then this!!!

Also notice there exactly 6 columns out front, just like the Greek Parthenon!

What is the history of this "church" building?

http://www.metropolitantabernacle.org/Charles-Spurgeon-Metropolitan-Tabernacle

*"**The Tabernacle Fellowship** goes back to the year 1650, thirty years after the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers, and at the time that Parliament had just banned Baptist meetings. The Tabernacle traces its roots to a congregation which braved constant persecution, and which **met in a house** in Kennington belonging to Widow Colfe. The meeting grew rapidly under its first pastor, **William Rider**, who apparently died in the plague.*

*Then came **Benjamin Keach**, famous for his books - still in demand - explaining the miracles, parables and metaphors of the Bible. A prominent leader among Baptists, he led the church through much persecution, and **built its first chapel near Tower Bridge as soon as freedom came to Baptists in 1688**."*

Isn't it interesting that they built a building right around the time American "Baptists" were starting to build their "church" buildings!

How about this "church"?

Notice also the round dome on the roof.

Second Baptist Church Houston, TX

Don't tell me the Lord Jesus Christ is behind all of this!

Let's look at the interior of these pagan temples:

Notice the center corridor leading to the altar, and the numerous pillars.

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome has the same architecture!

Here we have the ruins of the supposed “oldest Christian church” in the world, and yet it is built with the same center corridor lined with columns leading to the altar in the front!

Rihab, Jordan is where this St Georgeous “Church” was supposedly found.

<u>But what about the steeple?</u>

http://christian-restoration.com/fmasonry/obelisks.htm#History

"In 'Our Phallic Heritage' we are told that 'All pillars or columns originally had a phallic significance, and were therefore considered sacred. Pan, the goat god and god of sensuality, was often represented as an obelisk. A former witch writes 'The obelisk is a long pointed four sided shaft, the uppermost portion of which forms a pyramid. The word 'obelisk' literally means 'Baal's shaft' or Baal's organ of reproduction' (Page 341 Masonic and occult symbols illustrated. Dr. Cathy Burns)"

Notice this info on the above website:

The power of Freemasonry is all to evident when we see that they have erected obelisks in London, Paris, New York and of course towering over the White House is the Washington monument erected in honour of Freemason George Washington.

A true Egyptian Obelisk is 10 times higher than its width, so for instance the Washington obelisk is 555 feet tall and 55 wide at the base

"A true Egyptian Obelisk is 10 times higher than its width..."

Daniel 3:1 ¶ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose **height *was* threescore cubits, *and* the breadth thereof six cubits**: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.
Daniel 3:2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellers, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.
Daniel 3:3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellers, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
Daniel 3:4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,
Daniel 3:5 *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship **the golden image** that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:
Daniel 3:6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.
Daniel 3:7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down *and* worshipped **the golden image** that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

What was this "golden image"?

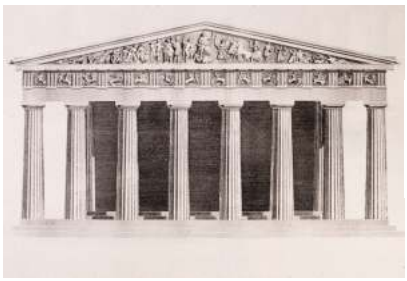
60 cubits high x 6 cubits wide (breadth)

Is it any wonder that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to an uncircumcised PHALLUS!

<u>If you don't believe modern-day obelisks symbolize the male organ, then take a look at what Buenos Aires, Argentina did to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1, 2005</u>

This perverted, wicked nation placed a giant condom on their Obelisk because they know what the Obelisk truly symbolizes!

<u>So what happens when you combine a pagan temple with an Obelisk?</u>



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You get a “church” building!

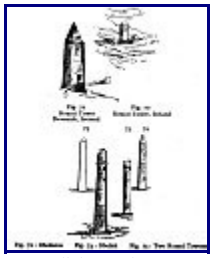
http://sacred-texts.com/sro/rrm/rrm31.htm

"The Architectural Genealogy of the 'Tower' or 'Steeple' displays other phases of the alterations of the 'upright'. All towers are descendants of the biblical votive stones, and in multiplying have changed in aspect according to the ideas of the people of the country in which they were raised. This Architectural Genealogy of the 'Tower' or 'Steeple' gives many varieties.

The groups on p. 244 supply new changes in the Tower or Upright, and furnish evidence ***how it passed into the Christian times, and became the steeple****. When thus changed and reproduced, according, to the*

Click to enlarge
Figs. 63-69

Fig. 63: Druidical Stone in Persia; Fig. 64: Druidical Circle at Darab, in Arabia Fig. 65: 'Kit's Cotty-house', Kent; Figs. 66. 67 Ancient British Coin, mentioned by Camden; Figs. 68 and 69: St. Michael or the Sun (Hercules) Fig. 68: England: St. Michael's Mount, Mount's Bay, Cornwall. 'Dragon', Horns, or Fires. (Moloch or Baal) British Channel, 'Dragon-mouth' (Galilee from the West) Fig. 69: France, Normandy: Mont St.-Michel. ('Montjoie!' 'Montjoy!'--old Battle-cry of the Gauls.) 'Dragon'. Horns, or Fires. (Moloch or Baal).



Click to enlarge
Figs 70-75

Fig. 71: Round Tower Devenish, Ireland; Fig. 70 Round Tower, Ireland; Fig. 72: Obeliscus; Fig. 73: **Obelisk**; Fig. 75: Two Round Towers.

architectural ideas of the builders of the different countries. where the same memorial pillar was raised, it assumed in time the peculiarities of the Gothic or pointed style. The steeples of the churches, the figures of which we give on p. 244, indicate the gradual growth and expansion of the romantic or pointed architecture, which is generally called Gothic; and they prove how the upright, or ***original phallic form, was adopted and gradually mingled in Christian architecture--in reality at last becoming its dominant feature.***

Click to enlarge
Figs. 74, 77, 76, 78

Fig. 74: Propylon, Thebes; Fig. 77: The 'Cootub Minar', near Delhi, supposed to have been built circa 1220; Fig. 78: Antrim Round Tower; Fig. 76: Round Tower at Bhaugulpore, India.

Fig. 96 represents one of the Western Towers of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which is one of the double lithoi (or obelisks), placed always in front of every temple, ***Christian as well as heathen****."*

Do you realize what we just read?

Steeples are actually pagan, PHALLIC symbols!!!

How can God be pleased with this?

<u>Let's get back to the article; A Brief Survey of Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches</u>

"Baptists, ***basing their beliefs solely on the Bible****, and the New Testament..."*

Yeah right! I don't think so.

"As with any true New Testament church, its validity as a true church approved of God, does not, nor or has ever rested on its name or on a succession of churches. A true New Testament church must be solely discerned based on its adherence to the principles of God's Word."

Then all modern IFB church buildings are NOT New Testament churches!
"The line of English churches that can be traced, who called themselves Baptists, began in 1610 in Holland. This is not to say there were no Baptists in Britain earlier, but that this began a line of churches whose history can be traced. It began with a man named ***John Smyth****, who was an ordained bishop in* ***the Church of England****. In 1606, after nine months of soul-searching and study of the New Testament, he was convinced the doctrines and practices of the Church of England were not biblical, and thus he resigned as priest and left the church.*

Because of persecution by the Anglican Church of all who disagreed with it and who refused to agree to its authority, John Smyth had to flee England. In Amsterdam, he, with Thomas Helwys and thirty six others, formed the first Baptist church of English people known to have stood for baptism of believers only.

*Smyth believed the only real apostolic succession is a succession of **biblical New Testament truth**, and not of outward ordinances and **visible organization** such as the Church of England or the Roman Church. He believed the only way to recover was to form a **new church based on the Bible**."*

The writer of this article fails to tell the reader what kind of "churches" John Smyth was setting up. Was he REALLY a Baptist?

http://johnsmyth.org/

"Regarding the identity and associations of the 'Baptist Church', Crosby wrote "In the year 1683, the Baptists, who had hitherto been intermixed among the Protestant Dissenters, without distinction, and so consequently shared with the Puritans in all the Persecutions of those times, began now to separate themselves, and form distinct societies of those of their own persuasion" (Crosby, The History of the English Baptists, I. 147).

Baptist historians in their books and web sites too often remove the identity 'church of Christ' from their sources, replacing the bible identity with either 'Baptist church' or just 'church', both are a falsification of history."

"And just where did the churches of Christ take their identity? As with all matters pertaining to doctrine, the scriptures - Romans 16:16:

> *"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you".*

According to Herbert Skeats in his book, 'History of the FREE CHURCHES of England 1688-1891' (1851, with a continuation by Charles S Miall 1891), there were congregations separated from the Church of England baptising believers in England prior to Helwys. Skeats gives the earliest date of 1417, another date he quotes is 1589 regarding several congregations (page 18).

Also according to Skeats there were no "Baptists" in England who held to Calvinism prior to about 1640 (page 32). Skeats was an independent having no Baptist affiliations, having no axe to grind.

Conclusion - Smyth died in Holland, forming no lasting church, and no church in England. It was his friend and colleague, Thomas Helwys, who formed a church of Christ in London, along bible principles.

Neither started the Baptist church denomination, which came into being about three decades after their deaths. It is also true that churches of Christ were in London prior to the congregation of Helwys and elsewhere in Europe.

The impression left by historians is that no church of Christ existed prior to Alexander Campbell, and that Baptist churches originated with John Smyth (Smith). Other Baptist historians take a line of succession back to the church of the first century, of such a mind was Smyth.

*Such is not true but revisionist history. **On investigation the Baptist Church in all of its various denominational forms was an apostate movement which came out of the churches of Christ in the 1640s, from which it spread abroad into the world.***

There was no Baptist church of that name or denomination prior to the 1650s.

Churches of Christ founded on biblical principles preceded the Baptist church from where that denomination came out, as can be with ease confirmed by the reading various confessions of faith,

as published by the Baptists.

What have we learned?

1. John Smyth was NOT the founder of the Baptist church.
2. He did NOT build a "church" building and call it Baptist!
3. IFB historians are lying and covering up the facts of history!

But now we will return to the article: A Brief Survey of Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches

The article discusses a man named "Hanserd Knowles".

"The Presbyterians, who are Calvinists, then took up the persecution of biblical believers and forbade Knolleys from preaching in parish churches. He, however, continued to preach by ***holding services in his own home****. One of the last acts of the Presbyterians, before the Long Parliament in England fell, was to pass a law imposing the death penalty on anyone who was caught holding to what they called "Eight Errors in Doctrine." These "doctrines" included infant baptism. Knolleys was imprisoned many times and suffered at the hands of the "****State Church****." He is only one of many such godly men who would not compromise God's truth. The "crime" of these men was that they believed the Bible was God's Truth, and* ***rejected dictates of false churches and men****."*

Sounds kind of like today, doesn't it!

We have state churches.
He was persecuted for worshiping at HOME!

"***THE BEGINNINGS OF THE BAPTISTS IN AMERICA.***

Roger Williams is credited with founding the first Baptist church on American soil, however as stated earlier the evidence shows that John Clarke began the first Baptist church in America in March of 1638 a year before Roger Williams 1 Williams actually founded the second Baptist church in America. He is an example of those who rejected the scriptural errors of the Anglican Church, and the Puritans who were rooted in America.

*John Clarke, was a Non-Conformist, and received his university training among the Pilgrims of Plymouth, England from 1607-1620. Bicknell it was reasonable to assume that member or in fellowship with the Baptist of Holland, as early as 1611.**2** He traveled to America in 1637 arriving in Boston. It is believed he left England to escape religious persecution. Immediately, upon arrival he observed the division with the colony and both civil and religious matters. During the course of the next few years Dr. Clarke preached and stood strongly for soul liberty and freedom of religion. He found himself continually at odds with the colony magistrates. He along with John Crandall, Obadiah Holmes came to the town of Lynn, Massachusetts on a pastoral visit. They were visiting the home of a blind man named Witter who have run afoul of the magistrates by speaking out again infant baptism. The colony authorities learned of the visit and issued a warrant to search Witter's home. While Clarke was preaching the constables arrived and arrested them. After being taken to a tavern and being fed they were ushered to a church service being held the pedobaptists.*

The warned the constables that they were Baptists and if made to attend the service they would have to testify because they were dissenters. Later they were taken to the Boston jail and charged with hold an unlawful church service and disturbing the service they were forced to attend. They were then tried by the governor of the colony, John Endicott and without accuser, witness, jury, or rule of law were ***found guilty of holding an illegal worship service****. They were fined twenty pounds each or sentenced "to be well whipped." Clarke and Crandall paid their fines, but Holmes refused and was publicly whipped with thirty lashes.****3*** *These men continued to preach God's word refusing to compromise or let the Puritan government intimidate them."*

Does this sound familiar, kind of like it has happened before?

Acts 4:1 ¶ And as they spake unto the people, the **priests**, and the **captain of the temple**, and the **Sadducees**, came upon them,
Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.
Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and **put *them* in hold unto the next day**: for it was now eventide.
Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.
Acts 4:5 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,
Acts 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.
Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, **By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**
Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;
Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and **perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men**, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.
Acts 4:15 ¶ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of **the council**, they conferred among themselves,
Acts 4:16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*.
Acts 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly **threaten them**, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.
Acts 4:18 And they called them, and c**ommanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the**

name of Jesus.
Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.
Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
Acts 4:21 So when they had **further threatened them**, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.
Acts 4:22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.
Acts 4:23 ¶ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.
Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:
Acts 4:25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?
Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.
Acts 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.
Acts 4:29 And now, **Lord, behold their threatenings**: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **they spake the word of God with boldness**.

<u>Notice a few things:</u>

Peter and John were having great affect preaching to the people.
How did the religious and political leaders react?
They asked Peter and John what their “authority” and “power” was to preach!
When the leaders found that they didn't recognize their man-made system but submitted to God only, they commanded them not to speak.

Officially recognized and state-approved religious organizations are NOT of God!

Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.
Acts 5:26 ¶ Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.
Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,
Acts 5:28 Saying, **Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?** and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.
Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for **if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:**
Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight

against God.
Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, **they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go.
Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, **they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

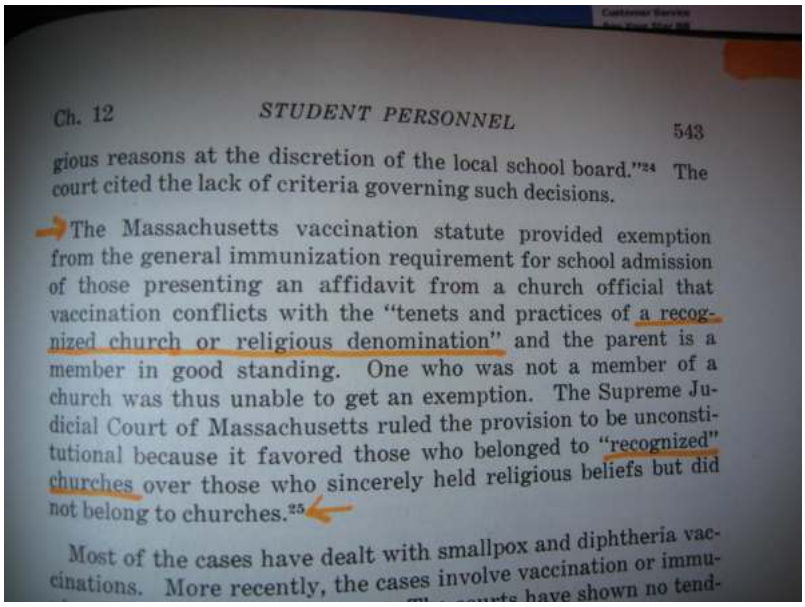
Question:

How many IFB church buildings have "come to nought"?

10,000 members down to an abandoned building today!

Another reason for "church" buildings is for credibility with the lost world!

(Page 543) The Law of Public Education by E. Edmund Reutter, Jr. & Robert R. Hamilton. Copyright 1970 The Foundation Press, Inc.



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gious reasons at the discretion of the local school board."[24] The court cited the lack of criteria governing such decisions.

The Massachusetts vaccination statute provided exemption from the general immunization requirement for school admission of those presenting an affidavit from a church official that vaccination conflicts with the "tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination" and the parent is a member in good standing. One who was not a member of a church was thus unable to get an exemption. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled the provision to be unconstitutional because it favored those who belonged to "recognized" churches over those who sincerely held religious beliefs but did not belong to churches.[25]

Most of the cases have dealt with smallpox and diphtheria vaccinations. More recently, the cases involve vaccination or immu-

1 Samuel 8:1 ¶ And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.
1 Samuel 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba.
1 Samuel 8:3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes,

and perverted judgment.
1 Samuel 8:4 ¶ Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,
1 Samuel 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now **make us a king to judge us like all the nations**.

(Give us a church building like the Catholics and Protestants have!)

1 Samuel 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.
1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for **they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them**.

(The people rejected the Lord's rule in their lives, and wanted the priest-class/laity system of Catholicism instead!)

1 Samuel 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and **served other gods**, so do they also unto thee.

(The people served gods like mammon. They wanted to worship the Lord in pagan temples!)

1 Samuel 8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.
1 Samuel 8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.
1 Samuel 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.

(Sons are taken to Bible College and Seminary)

1 Samuel 8:12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

(The big mega-churches need all sorts of business positions like treasurer, secretary, etc.)

1 Samuel 8:13 And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers.

(Bake sale to raise money for missions or building programs!)

1 Samuel 8:14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even* the best *of them*, and give *them* to his servants.
1 Samuel 8:15 And he will take **the tenth** of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

(The mega-church pastors will take your 10% tithe and get rich off of it!)

1 Samuel 8:16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

1 Samuel 8:17 He will take **the tenth** of your sheep: and **ye shall be his servants**.

(You better be “in church” every time the doors are open! If you don't then you are “unfaithful”!)

1 Samuel 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

(Christians today have more troubles then ever before, but more “church” buildings too!)

1 Samuel 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but **we will have a king over us**;
1 Samuel 8:20 That **we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**

(Isn't that something!!! Modern day Christians expect their pastor to fight their battles for them!)

1 Samuel 8:21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.
1 Samuel 8:22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

Christians in the 17th and 18th centuries wanted to have pagan buildings to meet in, so they could look like everybody else!

They got what they wanted, and the Lord is now forsaking this land!

Back to the article:

Roger Williams

“*Williams graduated from Cambridge University in 1627, and was apparently ordained in the Church of England. He soon embraced "Separatists" ideas and decided to leave England. In 1631, he arrived in Boston. He was much displeased with the Puritan theocracy. He strongly believed in separation of church and state and upheld the principles of soul liberty. "Soul liberty" is a belief that everyone is responsible to God individually. It bases its belief in the New Testament teaching that every believer is a priest to himself, having full access to God without the need to go through a church, church leader or priest. (Hebrews 4:15-16; 10:19-22) Despite his views, he was made the pastor of the church in Salem. Shortly after that, because of his doctrinal preaching, he was forced to leave Salem and went for a short time to Plymouth. He returned to Salem where he was summoned before the court in Boston because of his outspoken beliefs and was banished from the colony. The charge recorded against him was that **"he broached and divulged new and dangerous opinions against the authority of the magistrates**." Clearly, he was banished because he believed in religious freedom and believed and taught the New Testament was a believer's sole source for his faith and **practice**. His "crime" was that he rejected the unbiblical ideas of the state church such as infant baptism and other false teachings of the Puritans. The Puritans drove him from their colony in the dead of winter.”*

*"It should be noted that at first **Williams did not identify himself as a Baptist**. However, he continued to read the New Testament and became fully aware that infant baptism, sprinkling for baptism, and allowing unsaved people to be members of the church was not scriptural. Thus, resolving to follow the Lord's commands in truth, in March, 1639 he formed the Baptist church in Providence, R.I.. He began by baptizing himself which is not biblical baptism. He then baptized ten others who became the members of this church.*

*Shortly afterward, Williams withdrew from the church and became what he called a "seeker." History does not record why he would not identify himself as a **Baptist** although he set up a Baptist church. Please note that this presents no problem for this first Baptist church in America. This church was not founded on a man, but on the Bible."*

So apparently according to the author, anyone who believed in believer's baptism was automatically classified as a "Baptist".

John Smyth was NOT a Baptist!

Roger Williams was NOT a Baptist!

*"The sole authority for any true church is God's Word and not its human founder, or its heritage. Not once in the New Testament do you find even a hint that a church was legitimate because it was founded by Paul, was established by the church at Jerusalem or Antioch, or **called itself by a particular name**.*

*However, no one should think little of the name of Baptist, for it is the name that most has identified those individuals and churches that have uncompromisingly stood on the Word of God. Historically, **Baptists are the only group in modern times whose churches were founded on the Scriptures alone and not on the traditions or works of some man**. Baptists have always been the champions of the Word of God and preaching of the Gospel. History is clear: there is no other denomination that has so loved and **been faithful to God's Word** as have the Baptists."*

This is another outright LIE, and we will continue to demonstrate this!

<u>When was the first Baptist church BUILDING built in America?</u>

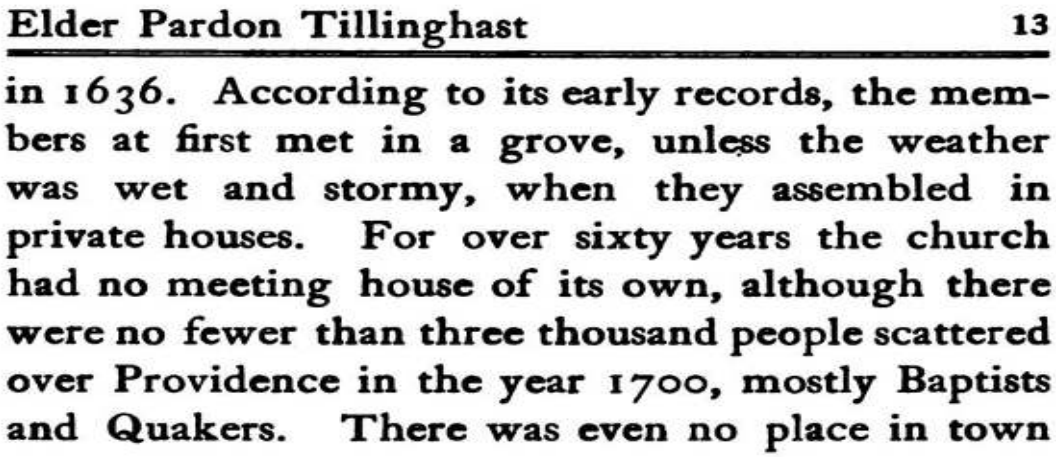
http://www.firstbaptistchurchinamerica.org/?page_id=74

"The First Baptist Church in America

*Williams soon gathered the faithful in **regular worship in his home**, holding services several times a week. After about two years, this little congregation became the first Baptist church in the New World. Williams concluded that believer's baptism was the only valid concept of baptism. Since he and all his congregation had been baptized as infants, in late 1638 he had himself rebaptized and then he rebaptized his flock. However, WIlliams' spiritual journey did not end here. Within months he came to doubt that any existing institution could validly call itself the church. He concluded that the church had died when the Roman Emperor Theodisius had made Christianity the state religion of the Empire around 385 A.D. He believed that all of the rites and practices of the church had become invalid and*

corrupt. SO, in the summer of 1639 he resigned, but he cherished the belief to the end of his long life (1683) that the church that he planted was based on Scripture. He remained steadfast in his defense of religious freedom, and his influence caused Rhode Island to be a unique haven of religious liberty in the seventeenth century. The Baptist church lived on under the leadership of Elders ordained from its ranks from 1639 to 1771. ***They had no meetinghouse until 1700. In that year, the pastor, Pardon Tillinghast, erected a tiny building on a 20 by 20 foot lot he owned on North Main Street.*** *This soon proved to be inadequate as the church grew, so a second meetinghouse, measuring 40 by 40 feet was erected next door to the first one. Providence continued to grow through the eighteenth century, and the Great Awakening increased the number of Baptists all over New England. Finally the present meetinghouse was built. Its size and beauty indicated that the direction of Baptist work in Providence had come under the leadership of James Manning."*

Below is an excerpt from a book entitled: "A Little Journey To The Home Of Elder Pardon Tillinghast" (Page 13)



Elder Pardon Tillinghast 13

in 1636. According to its early records, the members at first met in a grove, unless the weather was wet and stormy, when they assembled in private houses. For over sixty years the church had no meeting house of its own, although there were no fewer than three thousand people scattered over Providence in the year 1700, mostly Baptists and Quakers. There was even no place in town

Notice that these early "Baptists" did NOT meet in a "church" building for over 60 years!

The wealthy Elder Pardon Tillinghast financed the first building, and you won't believe how he raised the money!!!

“Historic Shrines Of America” (Page 82)

When the building was planned the Charitable Baptist Society was incorporated, that it might hold title to “a meeting-house for the public worship of Almighty God, and to hold Commencement in.” Nearly a third of the £7,000 required for the new building was raised by a lottery, authorized by the State. The architects modelled the church after the popular St. Martins-in-the-Fields in London, whose designer was James Gibbs, a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren.

In the two-hundred-foot spire was hung the bell made in London, on which were inscribed the strange words:

“For freedom of conscience this town was first planted;
Persuasion, not force was used by the people:
This Church is the eldest, and has not recanted,
Enjoying and granting bell, temple, and steeple.”

A STATE APPROVED LOTTERY WAS USED TO FINANCE THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING IN AMERICA!!!

Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

Proverbs 28:22 He that **hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye**, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

http://www.firstbaptistchurchinamerica.org/?page_id=82

“The Meeting House, built in 1774 to 1775, was the largest building project in New England at that time. The building, 80 by 80 feet, seated 1,200 people, equal to one third of Providence’s population then. The construction was greatly aided by the fact that the British had closed the port of Boston as punishment for the Boston Tea Party. Many shipwrights and carpenters were thrown out of work and came to Providence to build the meetinghouse. The structure was dedicated in May 1775 and the 185 foot steeple was added shortly thereafter. This was the first Baptist meetinghouse in New England to have a steeple. The steeple went up in three and a half days, and it has survived time and hurricanes since then.
The architecture is a blend of English Georgian and the traditional New England meetinghouse style. The Georgian aspects, borrowed from Anglican church designs, include the exterior portico and steeple and many interior elements, such as the Palladian window behind the high pulpit, ***the fluted Tuscan columns****, the groined arches in the balcony, and the split pediments over the doors. All of this was superimposed on a plain, New England meetinghouse, with its white walls, clear glass windows, dominant pulpit, and lack of any religious symbols. The iconoclastic Baptists regarded all symbols, even the cross as icons and idols. A grand chandelier from Waterford, Ireland, was added in 1792.*

In the 19th century the auditorium underwent many changes, including new pews (1832), adding an organ (1834), and interior baptistry (1838), several gas chandeliers (1850s), painted ceilings, and an addition to the rear of the building with a memorial stained glass window (1884). ***In 1957 former member John D. Rockefeller, Jr. made a gift to enable the church to restore the Meeting House*** *mostly to its original appearance. Today the Meeting House, a national historic landmark building, is regarded as one of the "must see" places in Providence for anyone interested in American architecture."*

What a nice church member!

<u>Back to the article: A Brief Survey of Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches</u>

"*However, after independence was won and the Constitution and Bill of Rights was written which gave all Americans religious freedom, the Baptists again began to grow until today they are* ***the largest denominational group in the United States****."*

How do Baptist "churches" grow?

By fighting, strife, and divisions!

I personally have seen many in my own life.

"WHAT MAKES A TRUE BAPTIST?"

"If the following five distinctives are the beliefs of a church, then you will have a true Baptist church. ***If a church cannot answer in the positive to each of these distinctives, then you do not have a New Testament or Baptist church. If they identify themselves as Baptists they are misusing the name.***

THE FIVE BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

1. WE ACCEPT ONLY THE NEW TESTAMENT AS OUR AUTHORITY IN ALL MATTERS OF FAITH AND ***PRACTICE****.*

This means that Baptists do not accept <u>any</u> authority except the New Testament Scriptures in regard to church polity, ***practice*** *and doctrine. The institution of the local church (ekklesia - assembly) is not found in the Old Testament. The institution of the local "ekklesia" was not instituted until Pentecost after the Lord ascended into heaven. Christ is head of the local church, and it is His bride. We believe the Word of God, the Bible is complete and it solely, ". . . Is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God many be perfect, throughly furnished (equipped) unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) We reject that God is giving supposed "new" Revelation, believing that God forbids any adding to or taking away of the canon of Scriptures. (Rev. 22:18-19)* ***We do not accept any authority over the New Testament Church, but Christ Himself,*** *including any hierarchy to include popes, modern day prophets, or councils of churches. We believe the sixty six books of the Bible are the inspired, inerrant and infallible word of God."*

ALL IFB church organizations are excluded because their "practices" are NOT based on scripture, and many are 501c3!

"3. *WE BELIEVE IN STRICT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.*
No power on earth is higher than God's Word, and a church should not be in any way ***yoked or controlled by the state****, or any civil authority in religious matters."*

501c3 Baptist churches are disqualified then!

*"****CONCLUDING REMARKS***
A church which cannot answer yes to all of these questions cannot historically call itself a Baptist church, ***nor can it legitimately call itself a New Testament church****. These are the distinctives that separate true Baptists and from all Protestants, any organized church, doctrinally unsound church, or "Christian" cults.*

A person can rightly take ***godly pride*** *in truthfully bearing the name Baptist."*

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Psalm 10:2 The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.
Psalm 10:3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth.
Psalm 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.

<u>So what have we learned from this study:</u>

1. The early "Baptists" like Roger Williams, John Smyth, Thomas Helwys, etc. never actually called themselves by the name of Baptist.
2. No early believers met in buildings until around the year 1700.
3. The first baptist church building in America was financed by a state-approved lottery, and later funded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.!
4. Most Baptist church buildings today are the result of splits and division.
5. While they claim to not be "Protestant", their practices come from Roman Catholicism.

We will demonstrate this in the next study!

Proverbs 21:16 The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the **congregation of the dead**.