

## AN UNBIASED BAPTIST

### *Bias*

- a leaning of the mind toward an idea or object that does not leave the mind indifferent
- to incline to one side

When learning Baptist history, you hope that you are getting a true picture of the New Testament church. The thought does occur, "If you go to a Lutheran church, you naturally believe that the Lutheran church is the true New Testament church pattern. If you go to a Catholic church, then you automatically believe that the Catholic church is the most Biblical of the denominations. Everyone is naturally loyal and biased to their denomination and views. I want to study truth not opinions. I don't want to be a Baptist because of a bias or mental slant."

It is one thing when a Baptist tells you that the title "Baptist" was given by God to His people, and Baptism of believers by immersion has been a major earmark of the true New Testament church for the past 2,000 years. These Baptists have held to the Word of God and made the main goal of their church soul winning and the planting of other churches. You can recognize these true churches by their hard preaching pastors, their soul winning and their copying of the Word of God and distributing It all over the world.

But what would happen if you heard a Catholic leader say, "There is no faith more certain and true than the Anabaptists or re-baptizers?"

"There shall be no faythe more certayne and true, than is the Anabaptists, seeing there be none nowe, or have bene before time fore ye space of these thousand and two hundred years, who have bene more cruelly punished." Stanislaus Hosius, **President of the Council of Trent of the Catholic Church**, writing in 1565, *Treatise of the Begynnyng of Heresyys*, (Yorkshire, England: The Scholar Press Ltd., 1970), P. 44.

What would happen if you read the words of an Episcopalian, Isaac Newton, say, "The Baptist have never been Catholic and never associated with the Catholic Church?"

"The Baptist are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with Rome." **Sir Isaac Newton**

What would you think if a Presbyterian encyclopedia taught that the Baptists go back to the time of Tertullian (190A.D.)?"

"It must have already occurred to our readers that the Baptists are the same sect of Christians that were formerly described as Anabaptists. Indeed this seems to have been their leading principle from the time of Tertullian to the present time." **Edinburg Cyclopedia (Presbyterian)**.

If you heard a Lutheran Historian say that, “Baptists are not being extreme when they claim their heritage has descended 1,400 years before the Protestants?”

Mosheim wrote, “the Mennonites (Anabaptists) not only considered themselves descendants of the Waldenses, who were so grievously oppressed and persecuted by the despotic heads of the Romish Church, but pretend, moreover, to be the purest offspring of the respectable sufferers, being equally opposed to all principles of rebellion on the one hand, and all suggestions of fanaticism on the other.”

“It may be observed,” continues **Mosheim**, “That they are not entirely in an error when they boast of their descent from the Waldenses, Petrobrussians, and other ancient sects, who are usually considered as witnesses of the truth in times of general darkness and superstition. **Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay concealed in almost all the countries of Europe, particularly in Bohemia, Monrovia, Switzerland, and Germany, many persons who adhered tenaciously to the doctrine, etc., which is the true source of all the peculiarities that are to be found in the religious doctrine and discipline of the Anabaptists.**” (See Mosheim’s *History of the Mennonites or Anabaptists, Eccl. Hist.* (New York: Harper Bros., V2, 1871), P 128.) These words of the learned Pedobaptist (Lutheran) historian we have given in full, for all ought to know them. (See S.H. Ford, *Origin of the Baptists.*)

It is one thing if I declare the history of my church. Everyone expects me to be loyal to my church. But if someone from a denomination that has persecuted and murdered Baptists tells you that their research shows the Baptists to be historically true to the Bible, then I feel like I am riding the right horse because of **TRUTH** not a **BIAS** or **SLANT**.

After finding this out, I often wonder why someone would know this about the Baptists and not join. I am an unbiased Baptist.

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