

Doctrinal Positions of the ABA Regarding Salvation

American Baptist Association

Below I have listed a few of the doctrinal positions of the ABA or American Baptist Association. This is the group we fellowship with on the local and national level as a church. I will give a brief explanation of each statement to clarify where needed. Hopefully, this will help explain where we stand in regards to election and predestination.

Statement #10

We believe that Man was created in the image of God and lived in innocence until he fell by voluntary transgression from his sinless state, the result being that all mankind are sinners (Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12, 19).

Comments: There is nothing in God's created universe that is more like God than we are. But Adam's sin in the garden has affected the entire human race. We are sinners by nature and also by choice. We believe in total, hereditary depravity. But unlike many Calvinists, we do believe a lost man can respond to the Spirit's conviction and also the preaching of the gospel with faith. (Rom. 1:16, John 16:8-11)

Statement #11

We believe that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ was substitutionary for all mankind and is efficacious only to those who believe. (Isa. 53:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2)

Comments: This means that we reject the concept of limited atonement which states that Christ only died for the elect. This also means we reject universalism which states that all will be ultimately saved. Christ died for all but the benefits of His death and resurrection are only applied to those who believe.

Statement #14

We believe that the depraved sinner is saved wholly by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and the requisites to regeneration are repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3-5; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8, 9), and that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners, regenerates, seals, secures, and indwells every believer (John 3:6; John 16:8, 9; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 4:30; Titus 3:5).

Comments: We believe that sin has affected every part of us. We are completely depraved and sinful in mind, body, soul and spirit. We are not saved because of any work but by God's grace through personal faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit (through the gospel) convicts sinners and leads us to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. After believing, we are regenerated (new birth), sealed, indwelled and filled with the Holy Spirit. This means that we believe that a lost, sinful man is capable with the Holy Spirit's help to respond to the gospel and be saved.

Statement #15

We believe that all who trust Jesus Christ for salvation are eternally secure in Him and shall not perish. (John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:35-39; Heb. 10:39; 1 Peter 1:5)

Comments: Those who are genuinely converted cannot and will not lose their salvation.

If you have questions, please contact us. We would be happy to discuss these doctrinal positions and their implications further with anyone who is interested.