

Where do we stand on the basics?

The Gospel.

Our priority message is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (for forgiveness and life with God)

The Bible.

Our final authority for our faith and how we live is the Bible alone

Baptism.

Our view of baptism is believer's baptism by immersion as a step of discipleship (that is a witness to receiving Christ as Savior and Lord)

The Lord's Supper.

Our view of the Lord's Supper is that it commemorates Christ's sacrifice, who is present among the believers gathered in his name, not in the bread and grape juice themselves

Day of Worship.

Our weekly day of worship is the seventh day Sabbath (kept out of loving obedience to God and joyously as a blessing, not as a requirement for salvation)

Church decision-making.

Our form of church government is congregational (decisions are approved by the church as a whole)

Denomination.

Our denomination is a cooperative effort of self-governing churches, not an authority structure (local church autonomy, but with the association principle of working with churches of like faith and practice).

Unity.

Our unity as believers is in Christ. Our unity as a church is by covenant agreement and in a basic set of common beliefs and practices, leaving other beliefs and practices up to individuals to decide for themselves in a spirit of tolerance for any differences they may have with other church members.

Christian liberty.

Our values for Christian liberty are to encourage liberty of thought under the Spirit's guidance and to uphold the individual's freedom of conscience in seeking to determine and obey God's will.

History.

Our history as Seventh Day Baptists goes back to a movement of believers studying the Scripture in the 1650's in England. We recognize no individual person as the founder of our denomination.

Commitment to the Christian lifestyle. Our commitment is to obey God and honor Christ by how we live, but our righteous standing before God is by grace and through faith in Christ, not our own efforts at obedience and good works.

Relationship to other believers.

Our relationship to all who have come to Christ through repentance and faith is that they are our brothers and sisters in him.

Practices of other churches.

Our practices as a church do not include speaking in tongues, foot washing or observance of the Old Covenant dietary laws and feasts of Israel, though people who hold other viewpoints are welcome to fellowship with us when they don't make an issue out of these practices that is disruptive within our fellowship.

Style of worship and traditions.

Our style of worship is "blended" (including both contemporary elements--like praise songs--and traditional ones--like hymns and occasional use of the doxology). Our traditions do not include referring to God the Father as "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" and Jesus as "Yeshua," and we annually celebrate the two most important events in Christian history: the Incarnation (birth of Jesus) and his sacrificial death and resurrection.

The Sabbath

Seventh day of the week, which begins at sunset Friday evening and ends at sunset on Saturday evening

Exodus 20:10 "the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God" (ESV—as are all references on this page unless otherwise specified)

Genesis 1:5 "there was evening and there was morning, the first day"

Leviticus 23:32 "from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath"--of Day of Atonement which was a (ceremonial) Sabbath

Appointment with God

Exodus 20:9 "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy"

Blessing and command

Genesis 2:3 "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."

Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15 (the 4th Commandment)

Bringing joy in the Lord

Isaiah 58:14 "Then you shall take delight in the LORD" (ESV) Isaiah 58:14 "Then you will find your joy in the Lord" (NIV)

A day of rest from labor for being refreshed and seeking fellowship with God and his people

Exodus 35:2 "Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest" Exodus 23:12 "be refreshed"

Lev. 23:3 "on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation"--see 23:4-37 list of appointed feasts, with Sabbath distinguished from them in v 38 "besides the LORD's Sabbaths." The Sabbath is mentioned with the feasts, because it was also a holy convocation and a time for making offerings, not because it was temporary and ceremonial. Jesus: "on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom" (Luke 4:16)

The Sabbath was made for man, not just the Jews

Genesis 2:3, Exodus 16:26 (Given at Creation, before the Jews, and observed in the wilderness even before the Law of Moses)

Mark 2:27 "The Sabbath was made for man" (Jesus, rejecting Pharisaic legalism--not the Sabbath itself--to restore God's purpose for it)

Holy: God made it holy (Gen. 2:3); we are to keep it holy (Ex. 20:8). It is the LORD's holy day (Isa. 58:13)

Holy=set apart for God (to be dedicated to God and used in the way he said)