

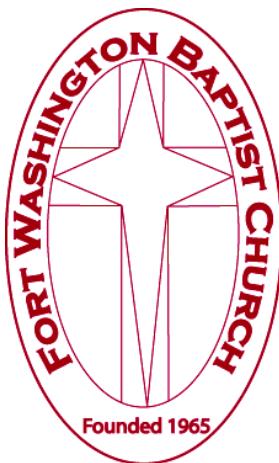
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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
Pastor Darin Poullard



Participant's Copy

BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



SESSION 49

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe the Scriptures teach that **election** is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, **it** comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that **it** is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that **it** utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that **it** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that **it** is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain **it** with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.¹

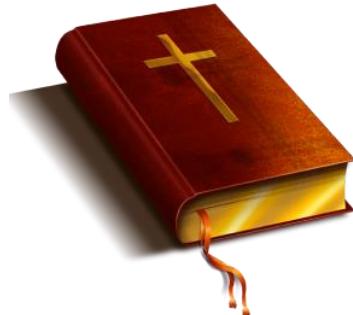
According to Article IX:

1. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that **election is the eternal purpose of God**, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners...
2. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, **it (election)** comprehends all the means in connection with the end...

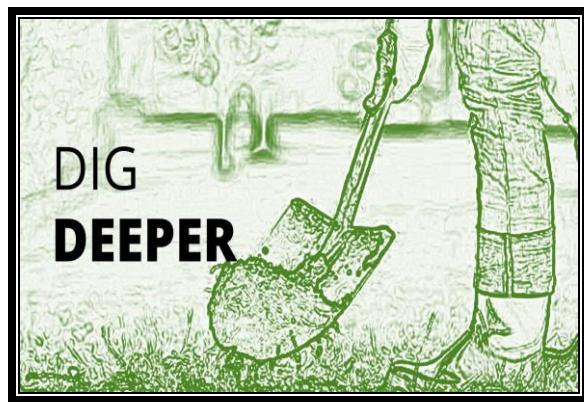
¹ [Articles-of-Faith.pdf \(nationalbaptist.com\)](http://Articles-of-Faith.pdf (nationalbaptist.com))

3. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable...
4. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy...
5. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it (election)** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel...
6. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain **it (election)** with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

The Doctrine of Election



Let's Dig Deeper into Understanding Article IX



In our previous study, we finished up the point that "Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy."

Election should evoke humility as one recognizes that he/she was spared condemnation for sin, that **election** for regeneration, sanctification, and salvation is never because God is under obligation to bestow these things upon humanity. As we have learned, God's only obligation is to fulfill His Law, to act with integrity by keeping His Word, to behave righteously by conforming His own behavior to His Word (**Lev. 11:44**;

19:2; Ps. 19:7-9.) His Law promises death for sin (**Rom. 6:23**). God is under obligation to fulfill His Law. To accomplish our election, regeneration, sanctification, and salvation, God fulfilled His Law of death for sin, on our behalf, through Christ Jesus, so that He could bestow the blessings of election, regeneration, sanctification, and salvation upon us.

Christ died for the sins of humanity to fulfill God's Law, so that sinners could be spared death, forgiven for sin, and experience the blessing of **election**. The sacrifice of Christ reveals God's mercy for sinners, love for sinners, and grace for sinners. Our awareness of all that God has done to fulfill His Law on our behalf through Christ Jesus so that He could bestow the blessing of **election** upon us should evoke humility within us, praise and thanksgiving within us, a deeper love for God within us, and a commitment within us to seek God in prayer for guidance so that we live in His will.

Election should deepen our trust in God, evoke the highest expressions gratitude, and cause us to imitate His mercy, His grace, His forgiveness, and His kindness towards others. Understanding our **election** should cause to love God and to love sinners like God loves us...who are also sinners.

Question: What impact does **election** have on those who have truly experienced **election** for regeneration, sanctification, and salvation?

Let's Dig Deeper into Understanding Article IX



Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it (election)** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel. **Election impacts the elected in two ways in this portion of Article IX.**

First: Election encourages the elected _____ to highest degree to serve God (Romans 12:1-2).

1. Election encourages the elected to give their _____ to God – their body and their mind (Romans 12:1-2).

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Point: Election encourages the elected to give themselves completely to service of the One Who elected them for regeneration, sanctification, and salvation. The elected offer themselves entirely to Him Who offered Himself entirely for them.

2. **Election encourages the elected to view themselves with _____ and others who are elected with _____ (Romans 12:3-5).**

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among **you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. **4** For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another (Romans 12:3-5).

Point:

Election encourages the elected to not become arrogant, to think about themselves with humility, to not think more highly of oneself than one ought to think...knowing that whatever faith one has that has led to their salvation...was allotted to them by God. They are in Christ, they've experienced election, because of what God has allotted to them...Faith.

Election encourages the elected to view others who have been elected, with appreciation – appreciating that they are united with us in the body of Christ, being used by Christ different then we are, but as important

and as necessary as we are being used. The elected need the elected in their lives. They need us. We need them. We need one another. They provide what we lack to the Body, as we provide what they lack to the body. Mutually we provide to the body, what the body needs, so the body lacks nothing that it needs to do the work God has called the body to do in this world. The elected need one another and therefore the elected are encouraged to view themselves with humility and to view the elected with appreciation.

3. Election encourages the elected to use their _____ faithfully to serve God and others (Romans 12:6-8).

6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Point:

All of the **elected** have been elected to serve in ministry, to use a Holy Spirit given gift in the work of the ministry – in some area of **service**, in **teaching**, in **exhorting** Saints to live by faith and in obedience to God, in **giving** with liberality, in **leading** with diligence, and in showing **mercy** with cheerfulness. Through ministry the elected encourage others who are elected in their walk with God and through all the trials of this life. In the ministry, the body, needs the elected to use their gifts to serve, to teach, to exhort, to give, to lead, and to show mercy. Understand that one's election

is not only for salvation but service, encourages the elected to faithfully serve.

**4. Election encourages the elected to _____
(Romans 12:9-21). Here are 12 ways to love sincerely.**

- **One:** **9** *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
- **Two:** **10** *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
- **Three:** **11** not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- **Four:** **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
- **Five:** **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
- **Six:** **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- **Seven:** **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- **Eight:** **16** Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
- **Nine:** **17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
- **Ten:** **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

- **Eleven:** **19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.
- **Twelve:** **20** “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Point:

God sincerely loves the Elected and proved it with the sacrifice of Christ and the election of the elected for regeneration, sanctification, and salvation. The impact of this love should be that the elected sincerely love others. Christ said, “love one another even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (**Jn. 13:34**) and also “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you” (**Jn. 15:12**).

John wrote,

“The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him” (**I Jn. 2:9-10**)

And

“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death” (**I Jn. 3:14**)

And

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the

world's goods and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (**I Jn. 3:16-17**)

And

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (**I Jn. 4:7-8**)

And

"And we have come to know and believed the love which God has for us. God is love and the one who abides in loves abides in God and God abides in him" (**I Jn. 4:16**)

And

"We love, because, He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also" (**I Jn. 4:19-21**).

Point: Those who have truly experienced election, who have truly experienced regeneration, sanctification, and salvation, sincerely love God, whom they cannot see, and sincerely love the elected, whom they can see. They love the elected in all the ways described by the Apostle Paul.

Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it (election)** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel. **Election impacts the elected in two ways in this portion of Article IX.**

First: Election encourages the elected to use all that they have to highest Sdegree to serve God (Romans 12:1-2).

Second: Election may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel.

Evidence of one's election should be able to be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel. Election should have an effect in all who truly believe the Gospel. There should be undeniable evidence of election. What's the evidence of election? Election is proven by one's love of the elected, by one's faithfulness to using his/her gifts in the work of the ministry, by one's humility and appreciation of others who have been elected, and by one's willingness to give oneself entirely – body and mind to Him Who gave Himself entirely. Sinners might experience election, regeneration, sanctification, and salvation.

Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain **it (election)** with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence. **Election** gives us the assurance of salvation. It gives us the assurance that we will be spared the second death and enjoy eternal life in the presence of God, know that Christ died the sinner's death, so that sinners can experience the glory of the life beyond this life. Election gives the elected the assurance that salvation is because of the mercy and grace of God and not any human effort...therefore...salvation can't be lost by humans because it was never accomplished through any human effort. The Lord will not lose any He has saved (**Jn. 6:35-40; 10:27-30**). Understanding what God has accomplished for the elected through Christ, demands and deserves the utmost diligence by

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the elected. Understanding what God has done for the elected through Christ, should cause the elected to be filled with gratitude and praise for the kindness and mercy of God.