

# The Baptist Faith & Message

## What We Believe: Religious Liberty

### MORNING SERVICE

“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.” (BF&M, Article XVII)

**All must choose who or what they will worship. (Joshua 24:14-28)**

**True freedom is experienced in Jesus. (John 8:32-36)**

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## What We Believe: Peace & War

“It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.” (BF&M, Article XVI)

**Promote peace as the only way to enjoy life. (Romans 12:16-21)**

**Pursue peace in relationships with others. (Romans 14:19)**

**Point other to the peace maker. (Romans 5:1)**

**Is there room for war? (Romans 13:1-7)**