



BAPTIST HERITAGE

Session Six | Congregations, Churches,
and the Kingdom
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INTRODUCTION

The life cycle of a congregation is a useful way to understand Baptist growth and development. Every congregation goes through the stages, as do Baptist organizations. Beyond the congregation, Baptists believe God has led them to form larger associations. The “Kingdom of God” terminology has sometimes been used to identify what God is doing in the world. For Baptists, the Kingdom “is always,” as Jesus said, “but also coming.” It is seen as more than the nature of the church.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What happens at various stages in the life cycle of a congregation?
2. What is the nature of congregational cooperation?
3. Baptist ministry beyond the congregation?
4. What is meant by voluntarism?
5. How do Baptists understand the Kingdom of God?