

COMPARISON OF BELIEFS	Independent Fundamentalist	Baptist	Catholic	Lutheran	Presbyterian	Reformed	Protestant Reformed	Episcopal	Methodist
Jesus	Eternal Son of God; became man, without ceasing to be God; conceived by Holy Spirit, born of virgin; only mediator between God and man	Eternal Son of God; became man, without ceasing to be God; conceived by Holy Spirit, born of virgin; only mediator between God and man	His death opened the gates of heaven. One receives Him in baptism. He established conditions for entering heaven— sacraments.	World's only Savior. His death atoned for sins of all.	Sole head of church. Only Savior; His death & resurrection secures eternal life for all who believe. Died for the elect.	Died for the elect.	His death was for the elect alone.	Some say virgin birth was merely symbolic— not biological	Savior.
Bible	Verbally inspired Word of God, final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible & God-breathed.	Inspired record of God's revelation of Himself to man. Infallible, inerrant. Supreme standard by which conduct & creeds should be tried.	The Bible does not support sola scriptura. Tradition is authoritative Church has final say on interpretation.	Main purpose: to reveal Jesus is our only Savior. Infallible, inerrant. Only source of doctrine.	Main purpose: to glorify God; show His sovereignty. Who God is provides the key to reality.	Stresses the inspiration, authority & sufficiency. Does not need to be supplemented with new or special revelation.	Believe in doctrine of the Covenant; regard it as truth that is central to scripture. KJV only.	Use Apocrypha. Not inerrant; use gospel and tradition.	Supreme rule of faith & practice. Sources for theologizing: Bible, tradition, experience, & reason.
Salvation	Salvation is a gift of God brought to man by grace & received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.	Offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.	Through the church and the sacraments. Faith plus works; obedience to commandments. A process from baptism to purgatory; not determined til death. Works required.	Only through faith in Jesus. Accomplished entirely by the Holy Spirit working thru gospel. Good works do not earn it, but are a result of salvation.	Free gift; not of works. Repent, believe Jesus died for you. By grace thru faith; complete commitment & surrender to God.	By grace alone Through faith alone In Christ alone	The covenant is a living relationship between God and the elect. Faith is the gift of God & the means by which elect enjoy the covenant. God will lead all elect to salvation.	Believe in Jesus; keep commandments. Salvation means that one is given the wholeness that is God's will for man & is delivered from arrogance & selfishness	As persons respond to the grace of God in Christ through repentance, faith, & going on toward perfection, they find themselves in the way of salvation.
Baptism	The ordinance of believers water baptism is scriptural means of testimony for the church age.	An act of obedience symbolizing believer's faith in a crucified, buried, & risen Savior. Testimony to believer's faith.	Salvation begins at baptism. It's a means of grace; confers regeneration & forgiveness.	Confers regeneration, forgiveness. Means of grace. Baptize infants because God creates faith in their hearts.	Confers blessing or grace of God. Baptize infants of believers: signifies & seals God's covenant promise.	Confers grace as sign & seal of regeneration and forgiveness. Means of grace.	Baptize infants of believers: they are included in covenant; sign of covenant; brings them into the church.	Means of grace. Makes us members of the body; forgives sins; new life in Holy Spirit. Baptize children.	Means of grace. Brings us into union with Christ. Initiates us into His church. Baptize infants.
Lord's Supper	A scriptural means of testimony for the church age. Symbolic.	Symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church memorialize the death of the Redeemer & anticipate His coming.	Christ is re-sacrificed. Confers forgiveness. Christ is actually present-His body & blood.	Means of grace. True body & blood under forms of bread & wine. Received for remission of sins; strengthen faith	Confers blessing or grace of God. He is truly though spiritually present and received.	Confers forgiveness & perpetual saving benefits of the life of Christ. Means of grace.		Means of grace. Receive forgiveness of sins & strengthening of our union with Christ.	Means of grace. In it we remember, with thanksgiving, the grace given to us at baptism; sustains, fulfills promise of salvation.
End Times	Personal, imminent, pretribulation and pre-millennial coming of Jesus for redeemed ones; return to earth to establish millennial kingdom	Jesus will return personally & visibly in glory; the dead will be raised; Christ will judge all men. Unrighteous to hell; righteous dwell in heaven with the Lord	Second Coming—Christ will come as Judge of the world; end of world will come through a general conflagration that won't annihilate creation but change it.	Reject millennialism—the teaching that Christ will reign over earthly kingdom 1000 years.	Christ will return to judge men and angels at end of world.	Visible return of Christ.		Christ will come in glory to judge living and the dead.	Heaven: realm of mind & spirit where redeemed keep company with God & Jesus. Hell: absence of that.
Grace	Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves.	Regeneration is a work of God's grace. Repentance & faith are inseparable experiences of grace.	Can be merited. Can be lost. Means of grace: sacraments	Can be lost. Means of grace: God's word, baptism, Lord's supper.	Means of grace: Prayer, worship, study of God's Word	Means of grace: Baptism, Lord's Supper		Means of grace: Baptism, Lord's supper	Means of grace: Baptism, Lord's supper

Means of Grace: "outward ordinances whereby the inward grace of God is ordinarily conveyed to man; whereby the faith that brings salvation is conveyed to them who before had it not." John Wesley

All information from denominations' websites.