

How Do We Compare

BAPTISTS	VS	LUTHERANS
Accept the Bible as Word of God. Some conservative Baptists very literal in interpretation.		Accept the Bible as the written witness to God's revelation of saving action through Jesus Christ
Accept no creeds, with each person to interpret Bible for him – or herself. Baptists refuse to use creeds as a "test of faith".		Accept the historic creeds as definitions and summaries of biblical truth.
Practice only "believer's Baptism"		Baptize both infants and adults
Believe immersion is the only scriptural method of baptism		Stress baptism by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, regardless of method (submersion, immersion, or pouring)
Practice two ordinances: baptism and Lord's supper. Communion considered a sign of salvation.		Practice two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion as God's means of conveying God's grace

MISSOURI SYNOD	VS	ELCA
Believe in the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit		Same
Accept the Lutheran Confessions as true teachings of biblical truth		Same
Believe that God comes to us through the Word and the sacraments of baptism and holy communion		Same
Teach justification by grace through faith		Same
Believe that the Bible should not be subjected to higher critical methods		Believe that the Bible can speak effectively through use of higher critical study
Believe that the Bible restricts women from certain church positions including ordained ministry		Believe that the Bible permits, even encourages, full participation by women in life of church
High degree of doctrinal agreement necessary before fellowship is possible		Agreement on a more basic level is sufficient for fellowship