



## “Congregational Form of Church Governance”

### I. Historical Snapshot

- A. Episcopal Form of Church Governance - (Greek: episkopas; bishop, superintendent)
- B. Presbyterian Form of Church Government - (Greek: presbuteros; elders and assembly)
- C. Congregational Form of Church Governance - (the Holy Spirit-led congregation)

### II. What is the Congregational Form of Church Government and why does it matter?

### III. Bases for a Government of the Holy Spirit through the People of God

- A. Lordship of Christ
- B. Authority of Scripture
- C. Salvation only by Grace through Faith
- D. Role of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer
- E. Regenerate Church Membership

### IV. Who is in Charge, then?

- A. Roles of Pastors, Deacons, and Leaders
- B. Roles of laypersons

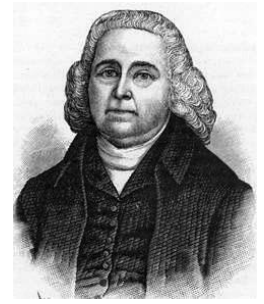
### V. What Happens if . . . ?

# “Baptists and the Struggle For Religious Liberty”

## I. Definitions

A. Religious Liberty

B. Separation of Church and State

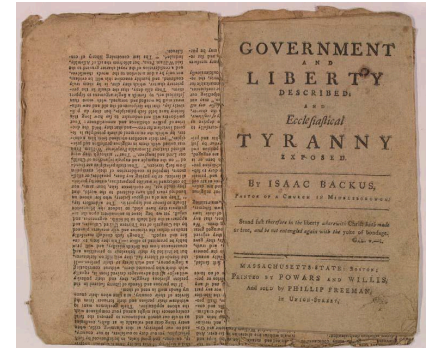


Isaac Backus, Warren Baptist Association

## II. Story of Freedom in America is Two-fold:

A. New England

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Isaac Backus pleads for Religious Freedom in person and print.



John Leland, leader of Virginia Baptists

B. South

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## III. Federal Constitution (National Level)

- A.
- B.
- C.



James Madison works with Baptists to write the Bill of Rights, including the guarantee of Religious Liberty for every US citizen.

## IV. Religious Liberty and Church-State Issues Today

- A. Intent/Interpretation Problems (Ex.1962 &1963 Supreme Court Decisions)
- B. Constitutional Freedoms Tested
- C. Your Role in Church-State Issues

December 17 - Christmas Meal and Awarding of Certificates - 10am at Primera Iglesia Bautista, Harlingen and 6pm at Valley Baptist Retreat Center, Mission.