

Calvinistic and much less detailed.

--The term best used to describe the majority of Baptists in the early 19th century was "Regular Baptists." Originally the body was Calvinistic and this gave rise to segments less Calvinistic using the word "free" in their titles. But in the 19th century the Calvinistic thrust was largely lost and confused and a general quasi-Calvinistic thrust could be attributed to most bodies

--The general Baptists segment began in 1830 the practice of open communion.--a pioneer feat in its day.

--The slavery issue provided a schism in the Baptist bodies in 1845. From 1814 the Baptist bodies had used, for fellowship and discussion, a Triennial convention. Between that of 1841 and 1844 great controversies developed and in 1843 the American and Foreign Free Baptist Missionary Society was formed...you can guess which way it was headed.

The Triennial convention of 1844 in Philadelphia saw the issue at a head and in 1845 at Augusta, Georgia, 377 delegates from 8 states formed the Southern Baptist Convention...the largest Protestant denomination in the States, today.

(4) On the Particular Baptist bodies:

--The Northern Convention assumed this more or less official name in 1907 and in 1950 became the American Baptist Convention with an elected National Secretary. (Present headquarters are at Valley Forge) Cooperating agencies included the American Baptist Home Mission Society, American Baptist Foreign Missions Society, the American Baptist Publication Society, etc.

The convention endorses a host of colleges and seminaries.

--The Southern Convention is more centralized in control and from 1869 has used an annual convention as a sounding board. It makes use of five agencies in a cooperative program to advance its aims. With many colleges and seven seminaries (maybe more by now) it has grown considerably and has shown marked growth in the north in the last two decades. Theological distress has marked it in the last decade, particularly.

--The National Conventions...largely black bodies (in the racial sense...I hate to use such terms), the foundation was in 1836 with the Provident Baptist Association of Ohio and then the 1886 American National Baptist Convention. On this background in 1915 was formed the National Baptist convention of America and in 1961 a division produced the National Baptist Convention of the United States of America. Both are large bodies today.