

## A CHALLENGE FOR THOSE WHO HOLD THE DOCTRINE OF EMDA

“If it is new, it is not true and if true it is not new.” Attributed to Harry Ironsides.

If someone told you Baptists believed in *baptismal regeneration* and that their history would verify it, how would you respond? Of course, you would pile page upon page wherein Baptists taught ***baptism must follow regeneration!*** Of course, you would not do this **to establish their doctrine** but rather **to verify it!**

For example:

When we wish to verify that Baptists believed in eternal **Election**, we appeal to our history and it demonstrates they believed this doctrine. If we could not find this doctrine plainly stated in Baptist history, that would indicate they did not believe it.

When we wish to verify what Baptists believed about **Total Depravity**, we appeal to our history. If they did not specifically state it, that proves they did not believe it.

If someone claimed Baptists counted **sprinkling as baptism**, you could produce a tsunami of contrary evidence from their history.

If anyone asserted Baptists believed in **falling from grace**, you could overwhelm him with specific quotes proving they believed in **Perseverance of the Saints**.

Every doctrine our forefathers believed they set forth like the trumpet of Sinai and they concealed nothing, Ac 20:20; 2 T 3:16, Ju 3.

We are safe in saying that if Baptists believed it, they published it!

### HERE IS THE CHALLENGE:

Provide one **explicit statement of EMDA before 1900**

I define my terms:

*EMDA: Essential Mother Daughter Authority*

*DA: Direct Authority, directly from Christ our of Heaven*

*Constitute: set up, establish*

*Church: an assembly, congregation*

*Specific: plain, direct, express, complete, exact, detailed*

*Explicit: without ambiguity, perspicuous, crystal clear*

*Statement: assertion, declaration, proposition*

*Essential: vital, indispensable, crucial*

What I am asking you for is *an explicit statement* by any Baptist who said *it is essential to have a mother church in order to constitute a church* before 1900.

I am not asking for a church-to-church lineage; I am not asking for a Jerusalem—to Dyersburg list. I am not asking if you have a mother church. I am asking for a *specific statement of EMDA by a Baptist* before 1900.

It does not matter what source material you use, Baptist History, Theology, Confession, Sermon, Commentary, Debate, Journal, Periodical, Encyclopedia, Biography, Anthology, or any other Baptist work.

**My contention is that no such reference can be found in Baptist history.**

**Why is there no explicit statement of *EMDA* in Baptist history?**

Could Baptists believe *EMDA* and never publish it? No more than they could believe in eternal Election and never mention it. It is impossible.

If Baptists did not specifically speak of *EMDA* it was because they did not believe it.

Therefore, I contend *EMDA* is a *new doctrine*, and it cannot be found among Baptists before 1900! But, on the other hand, *DA* is found numberless times in Baptist authors. See *Landmarkism Under Fire*. <http://ntbaptist-lizton.org>

By grace only,

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