

Water Baptism

1.0 The Definition and Need For Water Baptism (Matthew 28:19-20):

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20

1.1 Definition of “baptize”.

- A) Baptize - to dip; to purify or cleanse spiritually especially by a purging experience or ordeal (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary).
- B) New Testament Greek (Baptize = Baptizo) - to wash; bring forth; conceive.

Note: This meaning conveys the idea that baptism is associated with a spiritual transformation—a new life.

1.2 Baptism and The Great Commission

- A) Jesus taught that **water baptism** should be experienced by all disciples.
- B) Water baptism is a **foundational** doctrine of the New Testament church.

1.3 Jesus at the Jordan River (Matthew 3:5-15)

- A) The baptism of John the Baptist occurred following the candidate’s **repentance** from sin.
- B) Water baptism symbolizes the **washing** away of one’s sins (v. 11).
- C) Seeing that Jesus was also baptized by John, the link between **salvation** and baptism is clearly evident (vs. 11 & 12).
- D) Since Jesus Himself was water baptized, which tells us that as modern-day believers, we **should** be baptized.
- E) Through the experience of water baptism, Christ associates Himself with the need for fallen humanity to be **cleansed**.

2.0 What Water Baptism Is Not

2.1 It is *not* **salvation** (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Note: To be a candidate for water baptism, one must have **repented** of all of his **sins** .

2.2 It is not a way for parents to get their infants “saved.” Children must make their own **decision** to repent and receive Christ as Savior (Acts 2:38-41).

2.3 It is not a **sanctification** process (Acts 2:38-41).

3.0 What Does Water Baptism Symbolize?

3.1 It signifies **publicly** that one has confessed his sins and has turned to the Lord (Acts 10:44-48).

3.2 It represents the **washing** away of one’s sins (Acts 22:16).

3.3 It **associates** us with the **death, burial** and **resurrection** of Christ (Romans 6:2-7).

3.4 It says that we have **joined** ourselves with Christ (Galatians 3:27).

3.5 It joins us with the existing saints, saints of old and those who are yet to come. In essence we become **one** in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

4.0 Who Are Baptismal Candidates?

4.1 Those who have **repented** of their sins (Acts 16:31-34).

4.2 Those who were baptized **prior** to becoming Born Again (Acts 19:4-5).