Water Baptism

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

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, 

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).