

Apologetics



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

What is Christian Science?

Apologetics

Apologetics (from Greek *πολογία*, "speaking in defense") is the religious discipline of defending religious doctrines through systematic argumentation and discourse.

Context

These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding Christian Science.

1. What is Christian Science?
2. Who is Mary Baker Eddy?
3. What do Christian Scientists Believe?
4. Why We Believe Christian Science is a False Doctrine.

What is Christian Science?

Christian Science is a religion discovered in the 19th century by Mary Baker Eddy. The religion is under the category of "New Thought" or also known as "Higher Thought." Christian Science has similarities to Unity School of Christianity, Religious Science, and Science of Mind religions. The "New Thought" religions believe that everyone is inherently good and all people have the divinity within them. They see God, or Infinite Intelligence, as supreme, universal and everlasting.



Christian Science is a mind healing, positive, metaphysical way of life which promotes the law of attraction. In 1868, Mrs. Eddy was asked to help a woman who was dying of pneumonia. The attending doctor told her there was no hope for this patient, but Mrs. Eddy healed her. The doctor urged her to write a book about her system of healing and share it with the world. This book became *The Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

Who is Mary Baker Eddy?

Mary Baker Eddy was raised in a staunch, New England Calvinist home and protested against the idea that suffering and pain are God's will. She believed that God's will was only good. According to the Christian Science website, Mary Baker Eddy discovered Christian Science in 1866 after she fell on the ice and her doctor said it was life threatening.

She experienced a dramatic recovery after reading one of Jesus' healings in the Bible. It became clear to her that spiritual healing was based on divine laws of God, Spirit. She proved that these laws could be applied to anyone to heal every form of human suffering and sin. She believed that spiritual healing wasn't miraculous, but an effect of understanding God's all-power and love. In 1875, she

published her revelation from God in a book called *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Christian Scientists believe that this book is the spiritual interpretation to the Bible. In 1895, Mary Baker Eddy was ordained as Pastor of the First Church of Christ Scientist, the Bible together with *The Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* as Pastor for the world.



What do Christian Scientists

Christian Scientists believe that God revealed a scientific system of healing to Mary Baker Eddy based upon spiritual laws. They teach that God and his creation are all spiritual and perfect. They believe in one infinite God who is all in all good. They believe that God is not distant and unknowable, but that God is all encompassing and always present. They also believe that each individual is loved by God, cared for her/him, and made in God's image and likeness - spiritual not material. Matter doesn't exist and it is an illusion. As a person begins to understand that matter, including our bodies and sickness, is an illusion, then you can receive a Christian Science healing or "demonstration." If a Christian Scientist wants consistent success, it should never be mixed with medication. They believe that this method is the spiritual science behind Jesus' healing in the Bible.

They believe that God is Father-Mother. Jesus was not the Christ but the Christ idea. He was not God. He did not suffer and cannot suffer for sins. He will not literally come back. Salvation is for everyone and through spiritual understanding, becoming at one with God. A person is not saved from hell, but from his belief in materiality. Heaven and hell are states of mind, not actual places. They believe the Holy Spirit is Christian Science. They do not believe in the trinity as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Mary Baker Eddy claimed that Jesus only seemed to die on the cross and his triumph over the belief in death demonstrated that man is the perfect, spiritual reflection of God and that disease and death are not real. She said that the blood of Jesus had no power to cleanse us from sin. There is no final judgement in Christian Science.

These definitions are taken from the Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures:

God – *The great I AM; the all-knowing, all seeing, all-acting, all wise, all loving and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence. Page 587: 5-8. ...for God is All in all. Page 468: 11*

Jesus – *The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality. Page 589: 16-18. ... Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus himself declared, but is the Son of God. Page 361: 12-13.*

Man – *The compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind. Page 591: 5-7. Man is spiritual and perfect; and because he is spiritual and perfect, he must be so understood in Christian Science. Page 475: 11-13.*

Heaven – *“Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal...” page 291: 13-16.*

Hell – *The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil and the saint his own heaven by doing right. Page 266: 20-21.*

Holy Spirit – *In the words of St. John:” He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever”. This Comforter I understand to be Divine Science. Page 55: 27-29.*

The Trinity-*God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual ideal of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter. Page 331: 30-31.*

Salvation - Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all, sin, sickness, and death destroyed. Page 593: 20-22.

Judgement – No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment day of wisdom comes hourly and continually, even the judgment by which mortal man is divested of all material error. Page 291: 28-31.

The blood of Jesus – The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon “the accursed tree”, than when it was flowing in his vein as he went daily about his Father’s business. Page 25: 6-9. One sacrifice, however great, is

insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner’s part. That God’s wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son, is divinely unnatural. Such a theory is man-made. Page 23: 3-7.

Death – An illusion, the lie of life in matter; the unreal and untrue; the opposite of Life. Page 584: 9-10. He proved by his deeds that Christian Science destroys sickness, sin, and death. Page 26:25-27.

The spiritual sense of the Lord's Prayer - Page 16: 24-30 and Page 17: 1-15.

Our Father which art in heaven,

Our Father-Mother God, all harmonious,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Adorable One.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy kingdom is come; Thou art ever-present.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Enable us to know,- as in heaven, so on earth, - God is omnipotent, supreme.

Give us this day our daily bread;

Give us grace for to-day; feed the famished affections; And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And Love is reflected in love;

And lead us not into temptation, but delivereth us from evil;

And God leadeth us not into temptation, but delivereth us from sin, disease and death.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

For God is infinite, all power, all Life, Truth, Love, over all and All.

Revelation 22:18 warns: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Christian Science is a False Doctrine for the Following Reasons:

The Bible tells us that man has a sinful nature, we are NOT spiritual and perfect.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John: 1:8) “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood through faith,” (Romans 3:23-25)

The Bible calls God our Father but never our Father-Mother God.

“yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for him: and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.” (1Corinthians 8:6)

Salvation is a gift of God’s grace and cannot be earned. Salvation is not from a belief in materiality but from hell.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The scripture tells us that everyone will be judged.

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,” (Hebrews 9:27-28)

Heaven and hell are real places, not states of mind.

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14: 2-4) “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;”

(2 Peter: 2:4)

The Bible clearly shows that Jesus is God! *“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” (Titus 2:13) Also see: John 10: 30-33, John 14: 6-7, Revelation 1:17-18 and Revelation 2:8.*

The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, NOT Christian Science. God is one God who is Triune – (not three gods) but Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are one triune God. The Holy Spirit convicts, guides, teaches, comforts, and fills Christians. Some examples of these are: *1 Corinthians 6:19, John 3:5, Acts 5, John 14:25-26, John 15: 26-27, and Mark 1: 10-11.*

Remember, that *John 3:16* tells us: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* *Acts 16:31* says, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”* *Romans 10:9* tells us: *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

God loves you and wants a personal relationship with you! If you have been involved in Christian Science or a false religion, God will forgive you!! It is simple, just tell Jesus that you now believe in Him and understand that He is God! He died for you and rose again on the third day. Also, you need to realize that you are a sinner who needs a savior. You should be completely sorry for your involvement with false religions and other sins that you have committed. Ask the Lord to please forgive you and He will change your life!! There is nothing better than knowing your sins have been forgiven!!

Get to know your Lord and Savior by praying daily and reading God’s word from the Bible. All believers receive the Holy Spirit and you will start to see regeneration in your life. This is the New Birth! *2 Corinthians 5:17* says: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* Praise God!



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.