

Men's Discipleship

False Religions: Christian Science

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY & FALSE DOCTRINES

I. INTRODUCTION: WHY THIS MATTERS

False doctrines are not simply theological mistakes; they threaten the Gospel, distort Christ, and mislead those whom God calls to Himself.

- **Paul warns:** 2 Cor. 11:3-4

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

- **John warns:** 1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

“God is the great “Father - Mother” who is unknowable in human terms. Christian Science rejects the Trinity as polytheism and rejects the deity of Jesus Christ. The virgin birth was Mary's mind over matter thought process that brought out the eternal mind of God through her. Atonement is the sinner's work, not the finished work of Christ on the cross. The New Birth is continual self-justification. The Holy Spirit is not a person, but the Divine Science given to us by God. Healings without medicine are a mark of the true enlightened Christian, and anyone, through silent prayers, may heal others. Satan, sin and evil are illusions, and hell does not exist.”
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I. Introduction: Why This Matters (Expanded)

Why is Christian Science appealing? Christian Science presents itself in very **gentle and non-confrontational** terms, offering a spiritual worldview that promises to *heal* human suffering. It emphasizes divine love and harmony, using compassionate language. Mary Baker Eddy wrote that “**Science reveals man as spiritual, harmonious, and eternal**”en.wikisource.org, implying that our true nature is peaceful and untouched by pain. Such rhetoric of peace and healing – stressing the power of *Truth* and *Love* to cure ills – can sound deeply comforting to people seeking relief from life's hurts.

Christian Science also feels **philosophically elevated**. It claims to restore “primitive Christianity” with a deeper spiritual understanding of reality, which it calls a *Science*. Instead of calling for repentance or simple faith, it teaches that illness and troubles stem from ignorance of spiritual laws. This appeals to those who desire a more intellectual or “rational” faith. In fact, Eddy’s movement attracted many who were searching for a middle ground between old-fashioned religious *miracles* and modern skepticism. Her teachings offered a spirituality **“attainable by the natural mind”** – avoiding both the supernatural fervor of traditional revivalist Christianity and the materialism of liberal thought. In the late 19th-century “age of reason,” Christian Science’s blend of philosophy, psychology, and religion felt sophisticated and liberating to such seekers.

Christian Science can sound **emotionally comforting**. It offers an explanation for evil and pain that seems to rise *above* the harshness of the fallen world. Suffering, sin, and even death are described as *illusions* – false beliefs of the mind – rather than grim realities. This notion can seem very hopeful. If sickness and sorrow are not ultimately real, then one who “awakens” to spiritual truth can escape them. Christian Scientists are taught that as they recognize these afflictions as unreal, the afflictions lose their power. coldcasechristianity.com. Such a message – that our pains are essentially mistakes that truth will erase – provides an optimistic, uplifting outlook in contrast to the dire view of life as unavoidably “fallen.” The **gentle vocabulary** of Christian Science (speaking of “harmony,” “wholeness,” “illuminated thought,” etc.) masks its radical claims in compassion and optimism.

Mary Baker Eddy’s own words illustrate the appeal. She wrote: “*Divine Science...reveals man as spiritual, harmonious, and eternal.*” en.wikisource.org This sounds compassionate and full of hope. But **underneath the kind and lofty language is a complete rejection of the biblical worldview**. Christian Science *uses* Christian terms but fundamentally **inverts** their meaning.

Why is it fundamentally opposed to biblical Christianity? Because Christian Science at its core **denies or redefines every essential doctrine** of the biblical faith. For example:

- **God’s Nature:** It **denies the personal God** of Scripture. Instead, God is described as an impersonal divine Mind or abstract Principle, not the loving *Father* revealed in the Bible. coldcasechristianity.com. Eddy explicitly rejected the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit as taught in historic Christianity, calling the triune God a misinterpretation. In Christian Science, “*Mind*” is God and God is “*All-in-all*,” an impersonal force, rather than a distinct personal Creator.
- **Jesus Christ:** It **denies the true Incarnation** of Christ. Jesus is reduced to a man – albeit a special man – who *discovered* spiritual laws, rather than God the Son made flesh. Christian Science *distinguishes* between “Jesus” and “the Christ,” treating Christ not as Jesus’ divine identity but as an impersonal *idea or principle* that Jesus exemplified. rpcnacovenant.com coldcasechristianity.com. Eddy’s writings explicitly state that “*Jesus Christ is not God... but is the Son of God*” in a metaphysical sense. wels.net. In other words, Jesus is not the **Word become flesh** (John 1:14) for them, but just a *way-shower* who demonstrated “Christ Truth.” This strikes at the heart of Christianity, which centers on Jesus as **God incarnate**.

- **Sin:** It **denies the reality of sin**, calling sin and evil an *illusion*. Eddy taught that sin has no true existence and is merely a false belief – an “error” of the mortal mind to be overcome by understanding. learn.ligonier.org. She wrote that to conquer sin we must “*point out the illusion and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its unreality.*” learn.ligonier.org By treating sin as unreal, Christian Science flatly contradicts Scripture’s teaching that sin is very real (Romans 3:23) and the root of humanity’s problems. If sin is not real, the **need for a Savior from sin is effectively erased**.
- **Atonement:** It **denies the atoning sacrifice** of Christ on the cross. Christian Science rejects the idea that Jesus’ death was a necessary, substitutionary payment for sin. Eddy wrote that “*one sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation...*” That God’s wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son is divinely unnatural. Such a theory is man-made.” wels.net According to her, Jesus’ crucifixion was not a redemptive act bearing God’s wrath, but rather an example to enlighten us. By **discarding the Cross**, Christian Science removes the very means of salvation as taught in the New Testament (1 Peter 2:24).
- **Creation/Material Reality:** It **denies the reality of the physical world**, insisting that matter is not real. In Eddy’s view, all is Spirit (God, Mind) and matter is merely a *mortal illusion*. She famously stated: “*There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter... Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal.*” sacred-texts.com Accordingly, sickness, pain, and death have no true substance; they are errors of belief. This is a direct rejection of the **biblical creation**, where God made a real material world and called it “very good” (Genesis 1:31). It also denies the reality of Jesus’ bodily **resurrection**, which was physical (Luke 24:39) – a doctrine Eddy reinvented or explained away in her writings wels.net.

Each of these **denials strikes at the core of the Gospel**. Without a *real* fall into sin, there is no need for a real salvation. Without a real Savior who is God Incarnate; there is no true redemption. Without a real atoning Cross and a real Resurrection, there is no genuine hope of eternal life. Christian Science thus is *not* a gentle “alternative” form of Christianity at all – **it is an opposite and rival religion**. It takes Christian terminology and concepts but fills them with an entirely different meaning. In place of the personal, biblical Christ, it offers a metaphysical abstraction.

“For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.” (Romans 16:18, ESV)biblehub.com

“For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers... They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.” (Titus 1:10–11, ESV)biblehub.com

Scripture warns us of false teachers who use “*smooth talk*” and mislead people with empty but seductive ideas. Christian Science is a prime example: it **uses biblical words but empties them of Christian truth**, creating an alternative faith disguised in Christian terms. As one historian noted, Eddy even appended a “*Key to the Scriptures*” to her book to *reinterpret* biblical concepts to fit her system. wikipedia.org. Christian Science is a **different gospel** altogether (Galatians 1:6–7), one that replaces the Bible’s God and Savior with a set of mystical mental propositions.