

Religions in America: Christian Science

Not Christian, Not Science

Who are the Christian Scientists?

Started in New England by Mary Baker Eddy in the 1860s-1890s.

How many people in the U.S. are Christian Science? About 500,000.

Christian Scientists are well known for: Not seeing doctors, not taking medication, having Christian Science Reading Rooms instead of churches.

Where is their teaching from?

They say their teaching is from the Bible, but they rarely use the Bible because the Bible is full of many thousands of errors (contradiction!). Most of the time they use a book, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy. Read what the Bible says about itself in 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Understanding their Language

Christian Science uses many of the same words we use, but they mean completely different things. This will become rather confusing.

Christian Science says these words all go together and mean almost the same thing: God, Truth, Spirit, Knowledge, Health, Good, Heaven, Mind, Life, Eternal, Perfection, Love, Intelligence. In other words, Christian Scientists will say that Mind is Eternal, if you have Knowledge you will have Health, if you have Truth then you have God.

They say these words are opposite those good words. They say these all mean almost the same thing: Devil, Lies, Physical Matter, Ignorance, Sickness, Death, Evil, Hell, Body, Sin, Error. In other words, the Devil is the same as a Lie. If you think you will Die, you believe that only because you are Ignorant.

Let's Pretend...

This will help you understand a little bit. Christian Science believes everything is divided into two groups. One group is spiritual. Everything spiritual is good. Spiritual things include God, your mind, your soul, etc. The other group is everything physical, material. Everything physical is bad. That includes your body, sinful desires, sicknesses, and so on.

That means your clothes, your body, your car, the church building where we meet, the earth, everything you can see, touch, taste, is all evil and against God. But what did God say? Read Genesis 1:31. Also read Mark 7:14-23. Notice how Jesus emphasizes that physical things don't make a person "unclean," but sinful spiritual things do make a person "unclean."

Now for the confusing part. They say everything good is real. Everything bad is false, fake. So your mind is real. Your body is only your imagination. We will discuss this more in a moment.

What is Our Biggest Problem?

Christian Science says that the truth is that we are all spiritual. They say that is reality. Our problem is that we think we live in physical bodies in a physical world. They say those lies trap us and prevent us from becoming completely spiritual. (But how can something that isn't real, something that doesn't exist, fool us and trap us?)

What is the Solution?

One sign that we are trapped is sickness. If we can heal ourselves without doctors or medicine, using only our minds, we are on the way to freeing ourselves from our physical bodies. Their goal is to become completely free from all physical things. How do they do this? They just keep trying to convince themselves that everything they see and feel is false.

But that is not easy to do (since it is all real!). Christian Science denies their body is real, but they continue to feed themselves, buy clothes, heat and cool their homes, even though they say physical things are not real and prevent them from coming to God. Sadly, because they say their illnesses are false, sometimes they refuse to see doctors and they die.

What about Jesus?

Christian Science teachings about God are very different from the Christian Church. We believe the Bible shows God is a being, a "person" who created us, takes care of us, and saved us from our sins. Christian Science says God is a force, idea, knowledge, and not a "person" or being. They say God is all-powerful, but God can't decide to do anything because He can't decide. He has no will because He is not a person. We can't talk to God or pray to Him, because He is not a person.

Their beliefs about Jesus are not any better. They say Jesus was not God. Jesus was only an "idea" in God's mind. They say Jesus did not die on the cross. He hid in the tomb for several days, then "ascended" by becoming pure spirit. Read what the Bible says in John 19:30-42, Luke 24:36-43, 50-53.

What Can Lutherans Say to Christian Scientists?

This is a difficult group, because they don't believe anything in the Bible the same as us. If we talk to them, we must start from the very beginning; who God is, who Jesus is, that God created the world, what sin is (not following God's will), and Jesus died to forgive our sins. We must also pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to see God's truth so they stop following their own dreams.