

Cults and Other “Gospels”

Recognizing and Understanding the Differences



Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ **Remember our definition of a “cult”**
 - ♦ **I've recommended six questions to ask yourself about any religious groups that seem at least potentially suspicious to you...**
 1. **Does the group have a prophet/founder who is revered by followers and claims to have *special* revelation from God or from angels?**
 2. **Are there authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to* or *instead of* the Bible?**
 3. **Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?**
 4. **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 5. **How does the group believe we are *saved*? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 6. **What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?**



Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ Introduction to Cults
- ♦ Peoples Temple
- ♦ Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”)
- ♦ Jehovah's Witnesses
- ♦ **Christian Science**
(i.e.; The First Church of Christ, Scientist)



Christian Science

- ♦ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ♦ **Who is their founder?**
 - ♦ **Mary Baker Eddy**
 - ♦ **“Mrs. Eddy required of her students absolute and unquestioning conformity to her wishes; any other attitude of mind she regarded as dangerous. She often told Mr. Spofford that there was no such thing as devotion to the principle of revealed truth which did not include devotion to the revelator. “I am Wisdom, and this revelation is mine,” she would declare when a student questioned her decision.”**
—*McClure's Magazine (July 1907)*



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy**
 - ◆ **Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker**
 - ◆ **She grew up under his shadow, often faking illnesses and unconsciousness as a way of passive-aggressively fighting against him (she herself described trying to deal with her various illnesses through self-starvation, as well as by seeking help from “allopathy, homeopathy, hydropathy, electricity, and from various humbugs,—but without receiving satisfaction”)**
(she famously healed herself at age 12 through focus and concentration, after talking with the family's Congregationalist pastor about theology had given her a brain fever)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy**
 - ◆ **Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker**
 - ◆ **She grew up under his shadow, often faking illnesses and unconsciousness as a way of passive-aggressively fighting against him**
 - ◆ **She escaped her unhappy family in 1843 into a marriage to local businessman George Glover —who died seven months later of yellow fever (leaving a pregnant Mary Baker Glover destitute and even more emotionally unstable)**



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy**
 - ◆ **Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker**
 - ◆ She grew up under his shadow, often faking illnesses and unconsciousness as a way of passive-aggressively fighting against him
 - ◆ She escaped her unhappy family in 1843 into a marriage to local businessman George Glover —who died seven months later of yellow fever
 - ◆ **So, in 1849, she mentally prepared herself to get re-married to a local lawyer named John Bartlett —who died before they could get married (three weeks after Mary's mother died, which *really* messed Mary up emotionally)**



?



Christian Science

♦ Let's go through our six questions...

♦ Who is their founder?

♦ Mary Baker Eddy

♦ Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker

♦ She grew up under his shadow, often faking illnesses and unconsciousness as a way of passive-aggressively fighting against him

♦ She escaped her unhappy family in 1843 into a marriage to local businessman George Glover—who died seven months later of yellow fever

♦ So, in 1849, she mentally prepared herself to get re-married to a local lawyer named John Bartlett—who died before they could get married

♦ So, in 1853, she gave her 6-year-old son, George, up to be raised by distance family members—not seeing him again until he was in his 30s—and married local dentist Daniel Patterson

(NOTE: Mark Baker counselled Patterson that he shouldn't marry Mary, because she was so mentally unstable)

(NOTE²: She ultimately divorced Patterson, whom she said had abandoned her)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy**
 - ◆ **Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker**
 - ◆ She grew up under his shadow, often faking illnesses and unconsciousness as a way of passive-aggressively fighting against him
 - ◆ She escaped her unhappy family in 1843 into a marriage to local businessman George Glover—who died seven months later of yellow fever
 - ◆ So, in 1849, she mentally prepared herself to get re-married to a local lawyer named John Bartlett—who died before they could get married
 - ◆ So, in 1853, she gave her 6-year-old son, George, up to be raised by distance family members—not seeing him again until he was in his 30s—and married local dentist Daniel Patterson
 - ◆ **In 1877, she was married one final time to Asa Gilbert Eddy—thus, becoming “Mary Baker Eddy”**
(NOTE: Asa actually survived until 1882... at which point he died under mysterious circumstances...)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy (and Phineas Quimby)**
 - ◆ **Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker**
 - ◆ **But in 1862, she began receiving treatments for her various ailments—particularly an untreatable “spinal inflammation”—from Phineas Quimby, a “mental healer” from Maine who used mesmerism to heal**
(As Eddy wrote in a letter to the *Portland Evening Courier*—

“P. P. Quimby stands upon the plane of wisdom with his truth. Christ healed the sick, but not by jugglery or with drugs. As the former speaks as never man before spake, and heals as never man healed since... P. P. Quimby rolls away the stone from the sepulchre of error, and health is the resurrection.”)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy (and Phineas Quimby)**
 - ◆ Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker
 - ◆ But in 1862, she began receiving treatments for her various ailments—particularly an untreatable “spinal inflammation”—from Phineas Quimby, a “mental healer” from Maine who used mesmerism to heal
 - ◆ **When Eddy slipped on the ice and fell in 1866, she felt that she was tottering near death, unable to walk or even move**
 - ◆ **But then she applied Quimby's “healing by thought” exercises—**

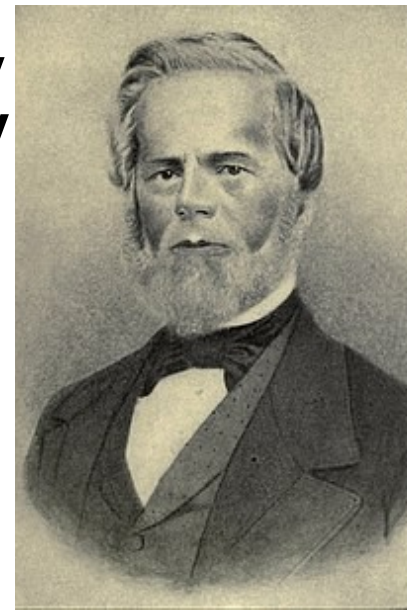
“I called for my Bible, and opened it at Matthew, 9:2 [*And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*]. As I read, the healing Truth dawned upon my sense; and the result was that I arose, dressed myself, and ever after was in better health than I had before enjoyed.”

—*The Christian Science Journal*



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy (and Phineas Quimby)**
 - ◆ Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker
 - ◆ But in 1862, she began receiving treatments for her various ailments—particularly an untreatable “spinal inflammation”—from Phineas Quimby, a “mental healer” from Maine who used mesmerism to heal
 - ◆ **When Eddy slipped on the ice and fell in 1866, she felt that she was tottering near death, unable to walk or even move**
 - ◆ But then she applied Quimby's “healing by thought” exercises
 - ◆ **Of course, she later fell out with Quimby when he disagreed with her increasingly strange theology—and the fact that she plagiarized large parts of his writings to create her own—calling him a very “unlearned man”**



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ▶ Actually, it turns out that Mary Baker Eddy pretty much plagiarized *most* of her ideas—

From Murray's *The English Reader* (1823), 98

. . . the man of integrity . . . is one who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according as the word of God and the voice of his conscience point it out to him. He is not guided merely by affections, which may sometimes give the colour of virtue to a loose and unstable character.

The upright man is guided by a fixed principle of mind, which determines him to esteem nothing but what is honourable; and to abhor whatever is base or unworthy in moral conduct. Hence we find him ever the same; at all times, the trusty friend, the affectionate relation, the conscientious man of business, the pious worshipper, the public-spirited citizen.

He assumes no borrowed appearance. He seeks no mask to cover him, for he acts no studied part; but he is indeed what he appears to be, full of truth, candour, and humanity. In all his pursuits he knows no path but the fair and direct one, and would much rather fail of success than attain it by reproachful means.

He never shows us a smiling countenance while he meditates evil against us in his heart. . . . We shall never find one part of his character at variance with another.

From Eddy's *Miscellaneous Writings* (1895), 147–48

The man of integrity is one who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according as Truth and the voice of his conscience point it out to him. He is not guided merely by affections which may sometime give the color of virtue to a loose and unstable character.

The upright man is guided by a fixed Principle, which destines him to do nothing but what is honorable, and to abhor whatever is base or unworthy; hence we find him ever the same—at all times the trusty friend, the affectionate relative, the conscientious man of business, the pious worker, the public-spirited citizen.

He assumes no borrowed appearance. He seeks no mask to cover him, for he acts no studied part; but he is indeed what he appears to be—full of truth, candor, and humanity. In all his pursuits he knows no path but the fair, open, and direct one, and would much rather fail of success than attain it by reproachable means. He never shows us a smiling countenance while he meditates evil against us in his heart. We shall never find one part of his character at variance with another.



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

➤ Actually, it turns out that Mary Baker Eddy pretty much plagiarized *most* of her ideas—

From *The Metaphysical Religion of Hegel* by Francis Lieber

For Hegel and his true disciples there is no truth, substance, life, or intelligence in matter; all is Infinite Mind. Thus matter has no reality; it is only the manifestation of spirit. . . . Therefore science is spiritual, for God is Spirit (85).

Hegel science brings to light truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, God's entirety, and matter's nothingness. For him there are but two realities, God and the ideas of God, in other words spirit and what it shadows forth. Properly, there is no physical science. The Principle of science is God, intelligence, and not matter. Therefore science is spiritual, for God is Spirit and the Principle of the universe is (man).

From *Eddy's Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*

There is no life, truth, intelligence nor substance in matter. All is Infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is all in all. . . . Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual (468).

Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal mind, the entirety of God, good, and the nothingness of evil (293).

There is no physical science, the principle of science is God, intelligence and not matter; therefore, science is spiritual for God is Spirit and the Principle of the universe and man. We learn from science mind is universal, the first and only cause of all that really is.

We learn from Hegel that Mind is universal, the first and only cause of all that really is. Embryology affords no instance of one species producing another, the serpent germinating a bird, or a lion a lamb. The difference is not as great between the opposite species as between matter and spirit, so utterly unlike in substance and intelligence. That spirit propagates matter or matter spirit, is morally impossible. Hegel repudiates the thought (85–86).

To conclude that Life, Love, and Truth are attributes of personal deity implies there is something in Person superior to Principle. What, then, is the Person of God? Hegel makes clear that He has no personality as we now know personality, for this would imply intelligence and matter.

The body of God is the Idea given of Him, harmonious order of the universe and in man (male and female) formed by Him (82).

Embryology affords no instance of one specie producing another; of a serpent germinating a bird, or a lion a lamb. The difference is not as great between opposite species as between matter and spirit, so utterly unlike in substance and intelligence. That spirit propagates matter, or matter spirit, is morally impossible; science repudiates the thought (10, 264).

To conclude Life, Love, and Truth are attributes of a personal deity implies there is something in Person superior to Principle.

What is the Person of God? He has no personality, for this would imply Intelligence in matter; the body of God is the idea given of Him in the harmonious universe, and the male and female formed by Him (44, 221–22).



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ Actually, it turns out that Mary Baker Eddy pretty much plagiarized *most* of her ideas—

From *The Metaphysical Religion of Hegel* by Francis Lieber

For Hegel and his true disciples there is no truth, substance, life, or intelligence in matter; all is Infinite Mind. Thus matter has no reality; it is only the manifestation of spirit. . . . Therefore science is spiritual, for God is Spirit (85).

Hegel science brings to light truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, God's entirety, and matter's nothingness. For him there are but two realities, God and the ideas of God, in other words spirit and what it shadows forth. Properly, there is no physical science. The Principle of science is God, intelligence, and not matter. Therefore science is spiritual, for God is Spirit and the Principle of the universe is (man).

From *Eddy's Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*

There is no life, truth, intelligence nor substance in matter. All is Infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is all in all. . . . Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual (468).

Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal mind, the entirety of God, good, and the nothingness of evil (293).

There is no physical science, the principle of science is God, intelligence and not matter; therefore, science is spiritual for God is Spirit and the Principle of the universe and man. We learn from science mind is universal, the first and only cause of all that really is.

NOTE: Of course, Eddy disputed any accusations of plagiarism

- ◆ “No human pen nor tongue taught me the Science contained in this book, **SCIENCE AND HEALTH**; and neither tongue nor pen can overthrow it.”
—*Science and Health*
- ◆ “I have found nothing in ancient or in modern systems on which to found my own, except the teachings and demonstrations of our Great Master and the lives of the prophets and apostles. The Bible has been my only authority.”
—*Science and Health*



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy (and Phineas Quimby)**
 - ◆ Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker
 - ◆ But in 1862, she began receiving treatments for her various ailments—particularly an untreatable “spinal inflammation”—from Phineas Quimby, a “mental healer” from Maine who used mesmerism to heal
 - ◆ **When Eddy slipped on the ice and fell in 1866, she felt that she was tottering near death, unable to walk or even move**
 - ◆ But then she applied Quimby's “healing by thought” exercises
 - ◆ Of course, she later fell out with Quimby
 - ◆ **But Eddy nonetheless applied Quimby's theories with her own neo-Gnostic, “Theosophist” bent, combining Quimby's teachings with the Bible, Spiritualism, Hinduism, and other disciplines**

“It is plain that God does not employ drugs or hygiene, nor provide them for human use; else Jesus would have recommended and employed them in his healing.”



—*Science and Health*



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Who is their founder?**
 - ◆ **Mary Baker Eddy (and Phineas Quimby)**
 - ◆ Eddy was born in 1821 in New Hampshire to a strict, Congregationalist father named Mark Baker
 - ◆ But in 1862, she began receiving treatments for her various ailments—particularly an untreatable “spinal inflammation”—from Phineas Quimby, a “mental healer” from Maine who used mesmerism to heal
 - ◆ When Eddy slipped on the ice and fell in 1866, she felt that she was tottering near death, unable to walk or even move
 - ◆ **Soon, Eddy began teaching her own mini-“college” of students (for a tuition of \$1,000) about the fact that all matter is an illusion, an error of perception—in fact, *everything* is “Mind”**
 - ◆ **All illness, injury, pain, etc., is not only something which can best be dealt with through “right thinking,” but it doesn't really exist in the first place, because there *is* no “material” world—only the “Mind”**



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Thus, she stationed students outside her door day and night to think “positive thoughts” toward her and protect her from the malicious animal magnetism being directed toward her by enemies
 - ♦ Those enemies included some of her *students* —Richard Kennedy
(with whom she had founded a medical practice which consisted of laying hands on people's heads and thinking positive thoughts toward their health and negative thoughts toward their illnesses)



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Thus, she stationed students outside her door day and night to think “positive thoughts” toward her and protect her from the malicious animal magnetism being directed toward her by enemies
 - ♦ Those enemies included some of her *students*—Richard Kennedy and Daniel Spofford (who had originally hoped to marry Mary but felt spurned when she chose Asa Eddy instead—and whom she took to court in 1878, charging Spofford with using “mental malpractice” to undermine her work with his negative thought flow toward her) (and yes, the case was thrown out of court)



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Thus, she stationed students outside her door day and night to think “positive thoughts” toward her and protect her from the malicious animal magnetism being directed toward her by enemies
 - ♦ Those enemies included some of her *students*—Richard Kennedy and Daniel Spofford (who had originally hoped to marry Eddy) (NOTE: Later that year, Asa Eddy was charged along with another student with conspiracy to actually *murder* Spofford, but the case against them ultimately fell apart and was dismissed)

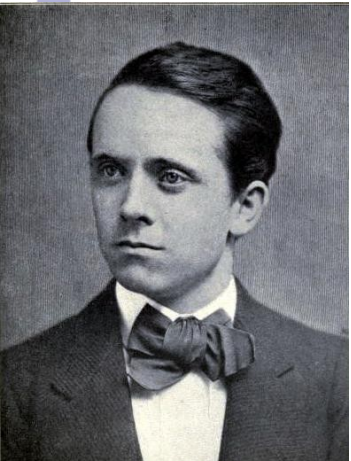


Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Thus, she stationed students outside her door day and night to think “positive thoughts” toward her and protect her from the malicious animal magnetism being directed toward her by enemies
 - ♦ Those enemies included some of her *students*—Richard Kennedy and Daniel Spofford (who had originally hoped to marry Eddy)



(Eddy then organized “watches,” where students were to take shifts of bouncing Spofford's negative thoughts back toward him and picturing Kennedy as dying from consumption or being poisoned by arsenic...)

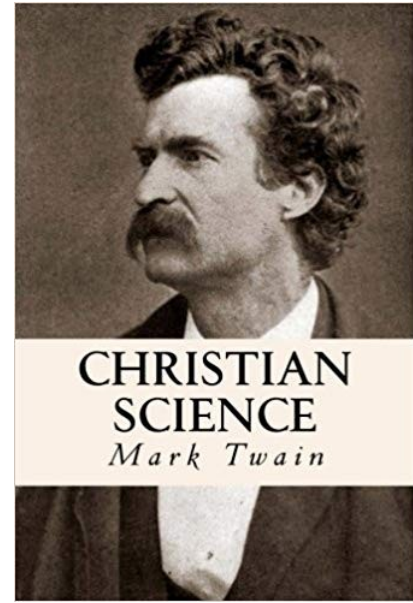


Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Interestingly, one of Eddy's most constant and intense critics was famous author Mark Twain who, in his book, *Christian Science*, called Eddy “grasping, sordid, penurious, famishing for everything she sees—money, power, glory—vain, untruthful, jealous, despotic, arrogant, insolent, pitiless where thinkers and hypnotists are concerned, illiterate, shallow, incapable of reasoning outside of commercial lines, immeasurably selfish...”



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Of course, if “right thinking” can make everything better in your life, then logically the *opposite* must be true
 - ♦ Eddy became increasingly concerned about what she called “malicious animal magnetism”—the negative thinking that people consciously or unconsciously “beam” toward one another that causes pain, illness, apparent death, etc.
 - ♦ Interestingly, one of Eddy's most constant and intense critics was famous author Mark Twain
 - ♦ Bear in mind that she was also prosecuted several times for practicing medicine without a license—including that time that she was calling herself a “Professor of Obstetrics,” teaching her students how to oversee childbirth through Christian Science ideas and they were all charged with manslaughter when so many of the babies and mothers died...



Christian Science

- ◆ Let's go through our six questions...
 - ◆ Do they have any authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to or instead of* the Bible?
 - ◆ *Science and Health (with Key to the Scriptures)*
 - ◆ “The Bible, *Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures* and my other published works are the only proper instructors for this hour. It shall be the duty of all Christian Scientists to circulate and to sell as many of these books as they can. If a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist shall fail to obey this injunction it will render him liable to lose his membership in the church.—Mary Baker Eddy”

—*Christian Science Journal* (March 1897)

- ◆ “A Scientist, or active member, is always thought of as a student, and reads and studies daily, confident that God is knowable, as revealed through the Bible as interpreted by Mrs. Eddy's textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.*”

—*Christian Science: A Sourcebook of Contemporary Materials*



The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
JOURNAL

HOLY BIBLE

KING JAMES VERSION

SCIENCE AND HEALTH
with
KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES



MARY BAKER EDDY

Christian
Science

A SOURCEBOOK OF
Contemporary
Materials

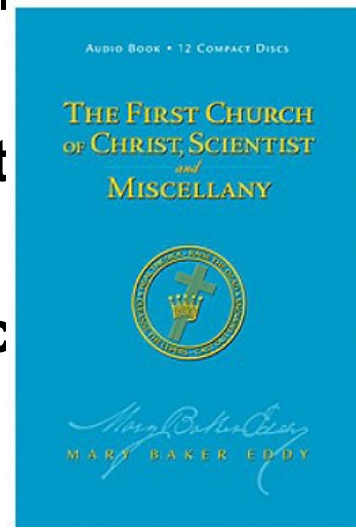


Christian Science

- ♦ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ♦ **Do they have any authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to or instead of* the Bible?**
 - ♦ ***Science and Health (with Key to the Scriptures), Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Monitor***
 - ♦ **To help with this study of “the way things actually are”—and thus, to help alleviate error, which is the bane of all existence—Christian Scientists put out several publications, such as the *Christian Science Journal* and the *Christian Science Monitor***

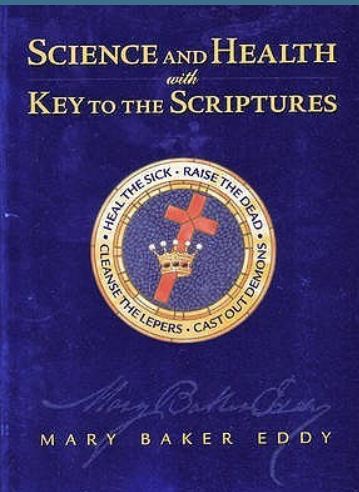
(Which Eddy instituted,
“to injure no man but to bless all mankind”
—*The First Church of Christ Scientist & Miscellany*)

(NOTE: Because of the nature of its stated purpose—to help people all error—the *Christian Science Monitor* is actually fairly consistent one of the most objective news sources that you can make use regularly rated as one of America's *least biased news magazines*)



Christian Science

- ◆ Let's go through our six questions...
 - ◆ Do they have any authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to or instead of* the Bible?
 - ◆ *Science and Health (with Key to the Scriptures), Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Monitor*
 - ◆ To help with this study of “the way things actually are”—and thus, to help alleviate error, which is the bane of all existence—Christian Scientists put out several publications, such as the *Christian Science Journal* and *the Christian Science Monitor*, which everyone can read free of charge at Christian Science Reading Rooms—such as this one here in Peoria on Sheridan

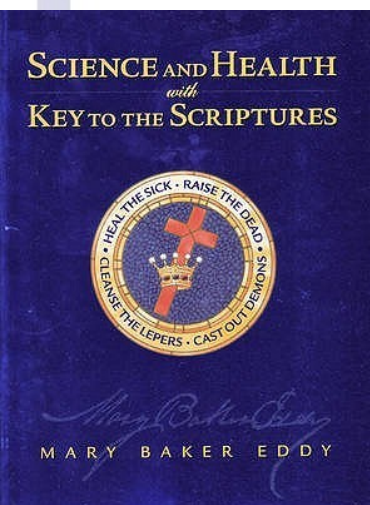


Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?**
 - ◆ **“Jesus elaborated the fact that the healing effect followed the understanding of the divine Principle and of the Christ-spirit which governed the corporeal Jesus... The outsiders did not then, and do not now, understand this ruling of the Christ; therefore they cannot demonstrate God’s healing power. Neither can this manifestation of Christ be comprehended, until its divine Principle is scientifically understood.”**

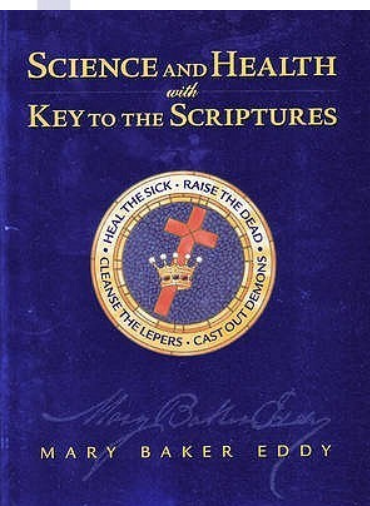
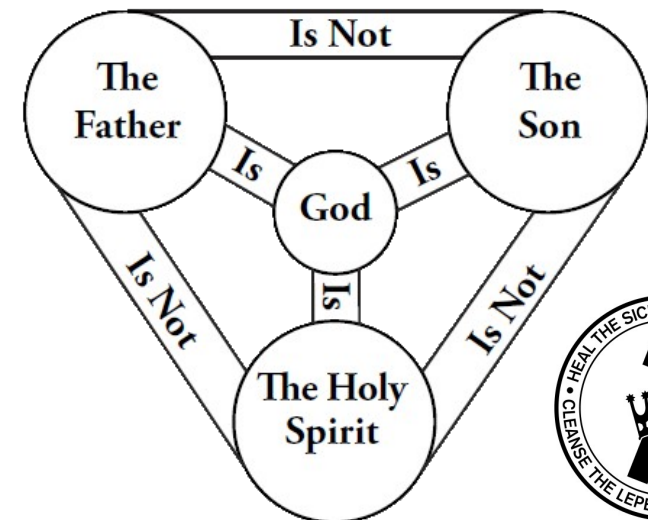
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“God is the divine Principle of all that represents Him and of all that really exists. Christian Science, as demonstrated by Jesus, alone reveals the natural, divine Principle of Science.”**

—*Science and Health*



Christian Science

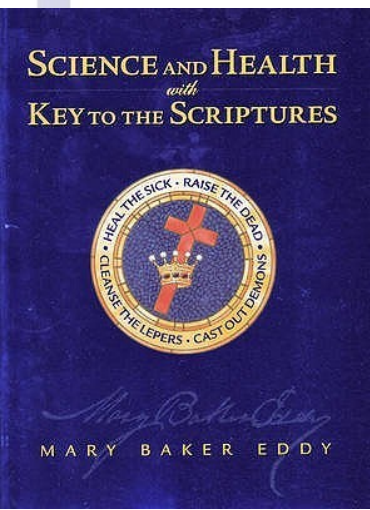
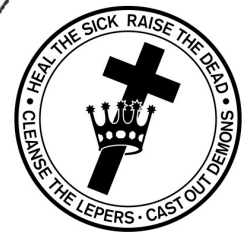
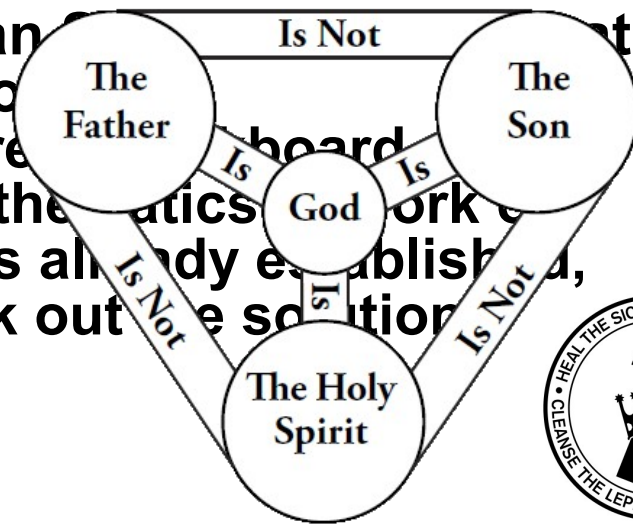
- ◆ Let's go through our six questions...
 - ◆ What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?
 - ◆ “Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God. . . God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter.”
 - Science and Health*
(NOTE: So *Christian Science itself* is the Biblical Holy Spirit, which was best demonstrated through the spiritual idea which was Christ)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ **“Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God. . . God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“God is the Principle of divine metaphysics. As there is but one God, there can be but one divine Principle of all Science; and there must be fixed rules for the demonstration of this divine Principle.”**
—*Science and Health*

(NOTE: This is why Christians do not pray to God. It is ridiculous to pray to God. “Who would stand before the Principle of mathematics and pray the Principle of mathematics work out the problem? The rule is already established, and it is our task to work out the solution.” —*Science and Health*)



Christian Science

- ♦ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ♦ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ♦ **“Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God. . . God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter.”**
 - Science and Health*
 - ♦ **“God is the Principle of divine metaphysics. As there is but one God, there can be but one divine Principle of all Science; and there must be fixed rules for the demonstration of this divine Principle.”**

—*Science and Health*

(NOTE: This is why Christian Scientists teach that it is ridiculous to pray to God)

(NOTE²: Instead, Christian Scientists are to deny all other “religions” and repeat to themselves, “There *is* no person to be healed, no material body, no patient, no matter, no illness, no one to heal, no substance, no person, no thing and no place that needs to be influenced.”

—*Christian Science Lectures*)

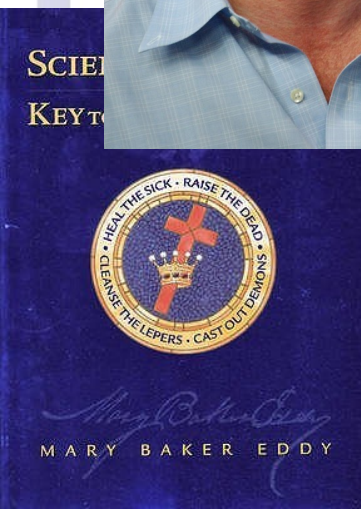


Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ Thus, Christian Scientists pretty much avoid all medical treatment—instead, focusing on how they aren't really sick because their “diseased” or “broken” flesh isn't really real in the first place
 - ◆ For example, this is why Christian Scientists who are diagnosed with, say, a throat cancer like Val Kilmer ignore medical advice, deny that they're even sick, and treat the “illness” with the positive thinking instead... with horrible results...



Christian Science



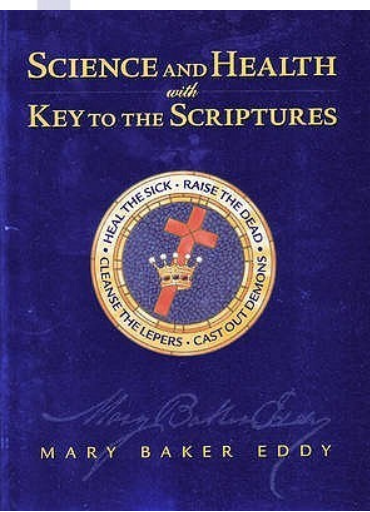
Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ Thus, Christian Scientists pretty much avoid all medical treatment—instead, focusing on how they aren't really sick because their “diseased” or “broken” flesh isn't really real in the first place
 - ♦ For example, this is why Christian Scientists who are diagnosed with, say, a throat cancer like Val Kilmer ignore medical advice, deny that they're even sick, and treat the “illness” with the positive thinking instead... with horrible results...
 - ♦ Actually, several of Eddy's family members died painfully, of long—and often treatable—diseases—Eddy prescribed reading *Science and Health* instead of going to doctors or taking medicines (NOTE: Eddy herself regularly took morphine and other opiates to deal with the pain from her earlier injuries and ongoing health problems)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ **“Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God. . . God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“God is the Principle of divine metaphysics. As there is but one God, there can be but one divine Principle of all Science; and there must be fixed rules for the demonstration of this divine Principle.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“The theory of three persons in one God (that is, a personal Trinity or Tri-unity) suggests polytheism, rather than the one ever-present I AM... Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus himself declared, but is the Son of God..”**
—*Science and Health*

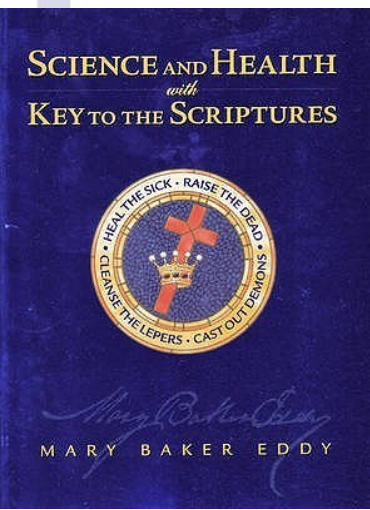


Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ **“Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation. As the apostle expressed it in words which he quoted with approbation from a classic poet: 'For we are also His offspring.'”**

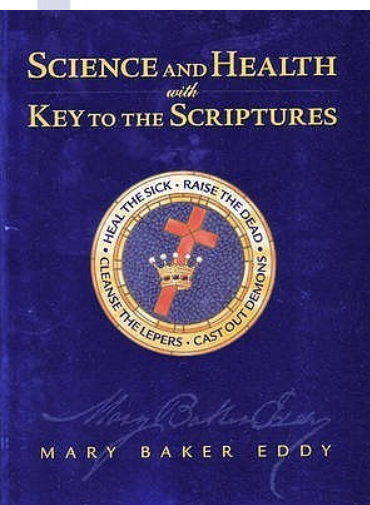
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“Jesus demonstrated Christ; he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God — the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth. Jesus was the son of a virgin. He was appointed to speak God’s word and to appear to mortals in such a form of humanity as they could understand as well as perceive. Mary’s conception of him was spiritual, for only purity could reflect Truth and Love.”**

—*Science and Health*



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ **“Those instructed in Christian Science have reached the glorious perception that God is the only author of man. The Virgin-mother conceived this idea of God, and gave to her ideal the name of Jesus — that is, Joshua, or Saviour. The illumination of Mary’s spiritual sense put to silence material law and its order of generation, and Spiritual conception brought forth her child by the revelation of Truth, demonstrating God as the Father of men.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“Christ is the ideal Truth, that comes to heal sickness and sin through Christian Science, and attributes all power to God. Jesus is the name of the man who, more than all other men, has presented Christ, the true idea of God, healing the sick and the sinning and destroying the power of death. Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea; hence the duality of Jesus the Christ.”**
—*Science and Health*



Christian Science

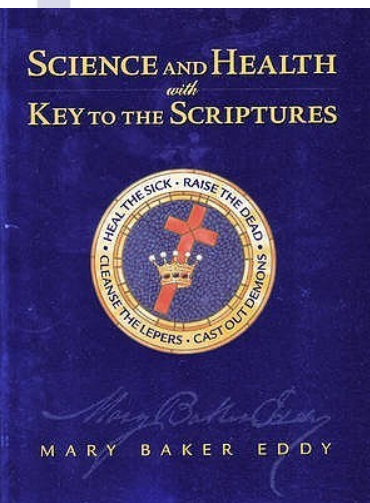


Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ See, the whole point of the “seeming” death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was to show how we heal ourselves by the power of mind over matter—
 - ♦ “His disciples believed Jesus to be dead while he was hidden in the sepulchre, whereas he was alive, demonstrating within the narrow tomb the power of Spirit to overrule mortal, material sense... He took no drugs to allay inflammation. He did not depend upon food or pure air to resuscitate wasted energies. He did not require the skill of a surgeon to heal the torn palms and bind up the wounded side and lacerated feet, that he might use those hands to remove the napkin and winding-sheet, and that he might employ his feet as before... His three days’ work in the sepulchre set the seal of eternity on time. He proved Life to be deathless and Love to be the master of hate. He met and mastered on the basis of Christian Science, the power of Mind over matter, all the claims of medicine, surgery, and hygiene.”

—*Science and Health*

- ♦ Again, we have a cult where it's crucial to believe that Jesus *never died on the cross*...



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“We call the absence of Truth, error. Truth and error are unlike. In Science, Truth is divine, and the infinite God can have no unlikeness. Did God, Truth, create error? No! ‘Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?’ God being everywhere and all-inclusive, how can He be absent or suggest the absence of omnipresence and omnipotence? ... Error is false, mortal belief; it is illusion, without spiritual identity or foundation, and it has no real existence... Truth, God, is not the father of error. Sin, sickness, and death are to be classified as effects of error. Christ came to destroy the belief of sin.”**
 - Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“Here also is found the cardinal point in Christian Science, that matter and evil (including all inharmony, sin, disease, and death) are UNREAL.”**
 - Miscellaneous Writings*

MISCELLANEOUS
WRITINGS
1883-1896



Mary Baker Eddy
MARY BAKER EDDY

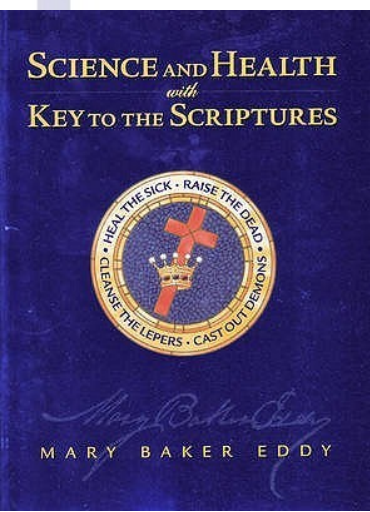


Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“We call the absence of Truth, error. Truth and error are unlike. In Science, Truth is divine, and the infinite God can have no unlikeness. Did God, Truth, create error? No! ‘Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?’ God being everywhere and all-inclusive, how can He be absent or suggest the absence of omnipresence and omnipotence? ... Error is false, mortal belief; it is illusion, without spiritual identity or foundation, and it has no real existence... Truth, God, is not the father of error. Sin, sickness, and death are to be classified as effects of error. Christ came to destroy the belief of sin.”**

—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“To get rid of sin through Science, is to divert sin of any supposed mind or reality, and never to admit that sin can have intelligence or power, pain or pleasure. You conquer error by denying its verity.”**

—*Science and Health*

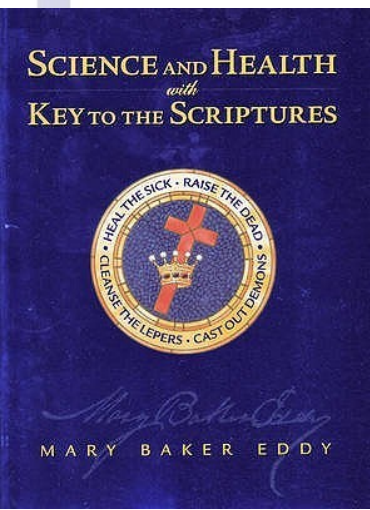


Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“We acknowledge God’s forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“Many a hopeless case of disease is induced by a single post mortem examination, — not from infection nor from contact with material virus, but from the fear of the disease and from the image brought before the mind; it is a mental state, which is afterwards outlined on the body.”**
—*Science and Health*

(NOTE: Interestingly, Mary Baker Eddy herself demanded a post-mortem on her husband, Asa —who was found by the examiner to have been “mentally assassinated” by means of “arsenic poisoning, mentally administered”)

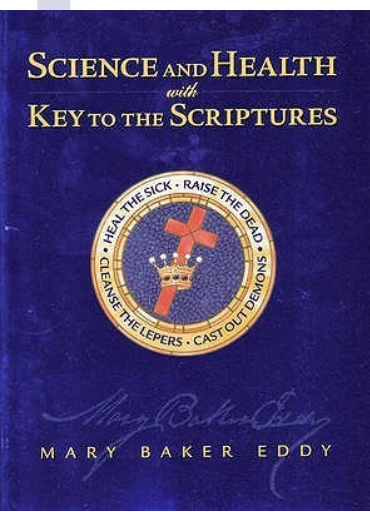
(NOTE²: The examiner was a quack)



Christian Science

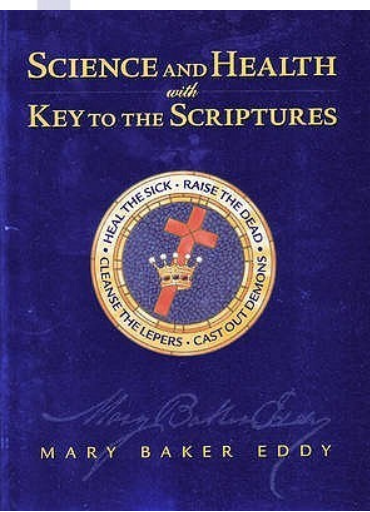
- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“We acknowledge God’s forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“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.”**
—*Science and Health*

(making this the *third cult in a row* to emphasize the importance of *de-emphasizing* Christ on the cross —what should that suggest to us as Christians?)



Christian Science

- ◆ **Let's go through our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?**
 - ◆ **“Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal, because sin is not there and man is found having no righteousness of his own, but in possession of “the mind of the Lord,” as the Scripture says.”**
—*Science and Health*
 - ◆ **“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. As for spiritual error there is none... The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right.”**
—*Science and Health*

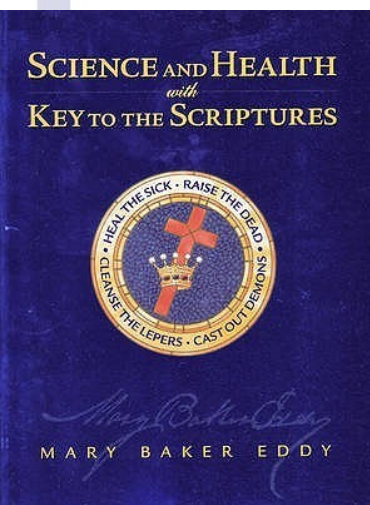


Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ As Mary Baker Eddy herself wrote, “The following is a brief exposition of the important points, or religious tenets, of Christian Science: —
1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
 2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God’s image and likeness.
 3. We acknowledge God’s forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.
 4. We acknowledge Jesus’ atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man’s unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.



Christian Science



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ As Mary Baker Eddy herself wrote, “The following is a brief exposition of the important points, or religious tenets, of Christian Science: —
 5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
 6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.”

—*Science and Health*, p. 497

- ♦ So how do you reach out to someone like that?

