

## World Religions- Christian Science

### What do you know?

Christian Scientists- Audrey Hepburn, Doris Day, Henry Fonda, (former) Elizabeth Taylor, Jim Henson

### History of this belief

-Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1866.

-Claims she fell on some ice, was declared dead, then they said she would never walk again, then three days later was able to walk after reading scripture (Mt. 9:2)

-P.P. Quimby is really a co-founder who came up with the term Christian Science

-Mary Eddy borrowed much of his writings, re-wrote them, then claimed divine authorship.

-She was married three times. She claimed her last husband was mentally poisoned by someone which caused him to die.

-All of her studies of scripture are documented in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (1875) and that, along with the "corrupted" bible are the two books used in this religion.

-In the 1970s the numbers significantly diminished, but it is still a large cult and one is regarded as intelligent, although aging

-Their main publication is *The Christian Science Monitor*

-They are headquartered in Boston at their Mother Church and have roughly 2,000 branches of their mother church worldwide, but that is shrinking

### Main Beliefs/Practices

-The foundational belief is that everything material is an illusion, practically controlled by the spirit. If you get sick in your physical body, it is because there is a spiritual problem going on. If you fix the spiritual problem, you fix the physical problem.

-i.e. Mt. 9:2- Physical problem of not being able to walk fixed by fixing the spiritual problem of forgiveness of sin.

**1. The Bible-** Tons of errors, can't know for sure what the divine words were  
-30,000 different OT readings and 300,000 different NT readings

**2. The Trinity & Christ's Divinity-** polytheism, denies the great I am. Are monotheistic. Jesus declared himself the son of God, not God, and shouldn't be confused with the great God.

-Spiritual Christ was infallible, but material Jesus was not the same as Christ.

**3. God and the Holy Spirit-** OT Jehovah was man's projection of a changing, wrathful God

"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"

"God is not a part of matter"

**4. Virgin Birth-** Since God is indivisible, a portion of Him couldn't have entered man, nor could God's fullness be reflected by a single man, else God would be finite and become less than God.

"Jesus, the Galilean Prophet, was born of the Virgin Mary's spiritual thoughts of Life and its manifestation."

**5. Miracles-** The sick aren't healed by simply declaring there is no sickness, but by knowing there is none.

-Sickness is part of the error that Truth casts out. Error can't cast out error.

***"Christian Science is the law of Truth, which heals the sick on the basis of the one Mind, or God. It can heal in no other way, since the human, mortal mind so-called is not a healer, but causes the belief in disease."***

-Miracles aren't supernatural, but a natural part of man...Jesus regarded the state of man as good, and evil as abnormal.

**6. Atonement-** Jesus blood had no effect on cleansing others from sin.

"The efficacy of the crucifixion lies in the practical affection and goodness it demonstrated for mankind."

**7. Death and Resurrection of Christ-** Jesus healed himself through the power of the Spirit while he was in the tomb and never actually died. Once the disciples saw Jesus' power over His material flesh, they had the confidence to heal others too.

**8. Ascension-** Jesus ascended to a higher plain of knowledge of God that wasn't visible to the physical senses anymore.

**9. Satan and Evil-** Evil is but an illusion and has no real basis; a false belief. There was never a moment in which evil was real.

**10. Hell-** The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil and the saint his own heaven by doing what is right. Mental anguish, not literal flames, is the punishment for sin.

**11. Kingdom of Heaven-** Harmony, bliss, the reign of the Spirit, the atmosphere of the soul, the reign of Divine Science.

**12. Prayer-** Prayer can neither change God nor bring his designs into mortal modes.

"If prayer nourishes the belief that sin is cancelled, and that man is made better by merely praying, prayer is an evil. He grows worse who continues in sin because he fancies himself forgiven."

**13. Man-** Man originated from Spirit, not dust. Man is God's image and likeness; whatever is possible to God, is possible to man as God's reflection.

## **Speaking About the Gospel**

Listen

Investigate/Interrogate/Interact

Engage

Go to scripture: Here are some key ones

1. *The Authority of the Bible*: Psalm 119:140; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; John 10:35, 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16
2. *The Trinity and Deity of Christ*: Genesis 1:26, 11:17, 18:1-33; Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 6:8, 9:6, John 1:1, 14, 8:58; Colossians 1:15, 2:9; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 1:7-8, 16
3. *The Personality of the Holy Spirit*: Luke 12:12; John 16:7-8; Acts 13:2
4. *The Virgin Birth and Miracles*: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-38; Matthew 8:14-15, 26-27; 9:2, 6-7, 27-30; Mark 1:32-34; John 2:1-11; 6:10-14
5. *The Atonement, Death, and Resurrection of Christ*: Exodus 12:13; Leviticus 17:11; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Daniel 9:26; Matthew 26:28, 28:5-7, Luke 24:39; John 1:29, 19:33; Romans 5:6-8, Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20
6. *Hell*- Matthew 13:42, 50, 22:13; Mark 9:44, 46, 48; Luke 3:17; Revelation 20:10
7. *Prayer*- Matthew 6:5-15, 7:7-11; Luke 18:1, Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16
8. *Sin*- Romans 3:23, 6:23, 1 John 1:10, 3:4, 5:17
9. *Jesus is the Christ of God*- John 4:25-26; 1 John 2:22
10. *God isn't Pantheistic*- Acts 17:24-28, Romans 1:25