

**WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?**  
**#7 Who Do The Christian Scientists Say That He Is?**  
**August 5-7, 2006**

22 He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.... 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

*1 Peter 2:22-25; 3:18 TNIV*

Introduction: Our world presents many conflicting views on the person and work of Christ. As we examine what other religious groups believe about Jesus Christ, we not only understand more fully the uniqueness of our own Christian faith, but we also become better equipped for sharing the Gospel with our world.

Christian Science denies the reality of the material world, as well as the reality of sin, suffering, and death. We know that this world and all its evils are real, and that Christ really died and rose again to redeem us and bring us to God.

I. The Basics of Christian Science.

- A. Official name: The Church of Christ, Scientist.
- B. Founder: Mary Baker Eddy, 1879. Eddy's teaching relied heavily on the work of mesmerist Phineas Quimby, metaphysician George Hegel, and others.
- C. Authoritative writings: *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Miscellaneous Writings, Manual of the Mother Church.*
- D. Official Publications: *Retrospection and Introspection, Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel.*
- E. Mother Church in Boston: The First Church of Christ, Scientist.
- F. Organizational Structure: The founding and pillar church in Boston serves as headquarters and is governed by a Board of Directors. All other churches are considered branches of the "Mother Church."
- G. Terms: Christian Science utilizes "practitioners" who pray for the sick. Eddy believed in "Malicious Animal Magnetism" (M.A.M.), which is negative mental energy or power. "Reading Rooms" are local Christian Science libraries where members go to read Eddy's works to aid their spiritual evolvment. Instead of preachers or ministers, Christian Science uses "Readers" who read prescribed passages from the Bible followed by an interpretive reading from *Science and Health*.

H. Tenets: Matter, sin, evil, sickness, and death are illusory, unreal. Rather than being ontologically real, evil and its manifestations are instead terrible lies about God and His creation. God is not Trinity, except as "Life, Truth, and Love." The Holy Ghost is Divine Science. The Bible has been corrupted, but *Science and Health* is the "first book" to be "uncontaminated by human hypotheses." Proper healing from illness is not done by "medical science, but by Divine Science," through prayer and true belief.

II. Who Do They Say That Jesus Is?

- A. Christian Science presents Jesus Christ in terms of a Gnostic duality: "The spiritual Christ was infallible; Jesus as material manhood was not Christ."
- B. Jesus was not one Person with two natures — fully God and fully man.
- C. Jesus was not God incarnate, not the fullness of deity dwelling in human flesh. His physical humanity was an illusion.
- D. Christ is the spiritual idea of sonship, "the divine manifestation of God" most fully seen in Jesus, who only seemed to die.
- E. Christ, as the Truth, came to set people free from false beliefs by His teachings and example.
- F. The sacrifice of Jesus was not sufficient to cleanse from sin. No substitutionary atonement, no death, no resurrection of Christ.

III. Who do we say Jesus is?

- A. Christians believe that Jesus is (the) Christ, God incarnate, fully human, fully divine, God-Man.
- B. We believe that Jesus had an actual, physical body of flesh and blood, as we all do (for matter and the material world are real, created by God).
- C. We believe that Jesus was sinlessly perfect.
- D. We believe that His death atoned for the sins of the world.
- E. We believe that He rose from the dead bodily, vindicating His life, validating His death, and verifying His identity as Lord and Savior.
- F. We believe that Jesus Christ ascended to God's throne and will return to earth someday in power and glory to judge all peoples.

Conclusion: "Christian Science is neither." Sin, suffering, and death are undeniable realities. Jesus Christ is a real Savior. He is Lord. His actual death and resurrection have secured real salvation for all those place their faith in Him alone for salvation. While we agree that Jesus taught God's ways for living, He is more than just the "Way Show-er." Jesus Himself is the Way. He brought us to God, in Whose heaven there is no evil or suffering, but only peace and joy.