

Founded by : Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

Writings: "Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures," "Manuel of the Mother Church"

Other reference material: Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel, Christian Science Monitor

God: "an impersonal principle of life, truth, love, intelligence and spirit." God exists but all other matter is an illusion.

Jesus was not the Christ, but a man with the Christ idea. Jesus was not God, God cannot become man or flesh. He did not suffer and could not suffer for sins. He did not die on the cross and certainly was not resurrected. He will not literally come back.

Holy Spirit is not a person, certainly not God but is rather the teaching of Christian Science, an impersonal power.

Humanity is already eternally saved. Sin, evil, sickness and death are not real.

Death is not real. Heaven and Hell are states of mind. The way to reach heaven is by attaining harmony (oneness with God).

Members of the church use "practitioners"(authorized professional healers who "treat" supposed illnesses for a fee)

Healing comes through realizing one cannot really be sick or hurt and that the body cannot be ill, suffer pain or die b/c all matter is an illusion.

Attracts followers by claims of miraculous healings

Mary Baker Eddy

First of the “mind science” family

Mary’s 3<sup>rd</sup> husband, Asa G. Eddy died of a coronary thrombosis. Mary contested the autopsy report and she found a physician who confirmed her conviction that Asa had died of “arsenic poisoning mentally administered.” The accusation prompted an investigation of the “Dr” (C.J. Eastman was dean of Bellvue Medical College near Boston) The inquiry discovered that Eastman was running an abortion mill and that he didn’t have any real medical credentials. Subsequently he was sentenced to 10 years in prison and the college was shut down. Mary’s letter to the Boston Post was published in 1882 where she accused some of Asa’s students of “mentally poisoning her husband.” Their technique according to Mary was via mental mesmerism in the form of arsenic mentally administered.

The true history of Christian science originated with one P.P. Quimby, Portland, ME; generated a system for mental healing, “The Science of Man”, 1850. Also used the terms, “The Science of Christ” and “Christian Science” before MB Eddy ever did. Mrs. Eddy’s relationship with Quimby began when she went to him for treatment of “spinal inflammation” in 1862. Eddy claimed that Quimby’s procedure had healed her in less than a week. Later in life, after Quimby died, Eddy claimed the procedure and process as her own and she thought that Quimby was in fact a “very unlearned man.”

Mary’s plagiarism of Quimby’s writings was documented in the NY Times July 10, 1904 which published parallel quotes from Quimby’s original work and MB Eddy’s. The truth is Mrs. Eddy was another in a long line of deceivers who would draw attention to herself and her system.

MB Eddy’s own story as to how she obtained this knowledge of “The Christian Science” is interesting but not profitable for our study. She is said to have slipped on a sidewalk on February 1, 1866, injuring herself fatally. Given only three days to live she called for a Bible and read Mt 9:2 after which she rose up completely healed.

Quote from the son of MB Eddy’s roommate.

Theology

Scriptures: His creation is a lie; there is no real creation, no real substance of man or God

Trinity: three persons in one God teaches polytheism. Jesus is not God but the son of God.

Holy Spirit: Christian Science is the Divine Comforter mentioned in Jn 14. God, the great I AM the all-knowing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence.” “God is All in all. God is good; Good is Mind. God is Spirit being all, nothing is matter. God is the divine principle, Life, Truth, Love, Soul, Spirit, Mind”

## Healing

“The sick are not healed by declaring there is no sickness, but by Knowing that there is none.”

“Sickness is part of the error that Truth casts out. Christian Science is the law of Truth.”

“The so-called miracles contained in the Holy Writ are neither supernatural nor pre-natural....., Jesus regarded good as the normal state of man, and evil as the abnormal....., the so-called pains and pleasures of matter were alike to Jesus; for he regarded matter as only a vagary of mortal belief, and subdued it with this understanding.”

Prayer is not asking for God to intervene but is rather a process of learning more of God’s spiritual reality, ‘awakening mortal thought” by degrees, to spiritual truth. The effect of this spiritualization is the healing either physical, emotional and otherwise.