

Overview of Unity School of Christianity

Key Person, Date, Location

Unity was founded in 1889 by Charles Fillmore (1854–1948) and Myrtle Fillmore (1845–1931) in Kansas City, Missouri. Its headquarters are located in Unity Village, Missouri.

Key Writings

Unity's teachings are drawn from *Unity Magazine*, *Lessons in Truth*, the *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, and the Bible—though the Bible is considered less reliable and is interpreted through “hidden” metaphysical meanings.

Who Is God?

God is described as an invisible, impersonal power. The term “God” is interchangeable with “Principle,” “Law,” “Being,” “Mind,” and “Spirit.” God is believed to be in everything, much like the soul is in the body. Unity rejects the Trinity and teaches that spirit is the only reality, while matter is considered illusory.

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is viewed as a man who attained “Christ consciousness,” not as the Christ himself. “Christ” is understood as a state of perfection available to every person. Unity teaches that Jesus lived many times before and was seeking his own salvation. He did not die as a sacrifice for anyone's sins, did not rise physically from the dead, and will never return to earth in physical form.

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Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is considered the law of God in action—described as the “executive power of both Father and Son.” It is understood as a definite thought in the mind of man, rather than a distinct divine person.

How to Be Saved

Salvation comes through recognizing that each person is as much a son of God as Jesus is. Unity denies the existence of evil, the devil, sin, poverty, and old age. A person is reincarnated until they learn these truths and become “perfect.”

What Happens After Death?

Death is seen as the result of wrong thinking. After death, the soul moves to a different body through reincarnation until enlightenment is achieved. Unity does not affirm a literal heaven or hell.

Other Facts, Beliefs, or Practices

Unity churches hold worship services and offer counseling and prayer ministry through “Silent Unity,” which operates by phone and mail. It is reported that Unity receives millions of prayer requests annually. Devotionals such as *Daily Word* are used by members of other religious groups and churches. Millions of pieces of Unity literature are printed each year.