

Overview of Christian Science

Key Person, Date, Location

Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1918) Founded in 1875 in Massachusetts Headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

Key Writings

Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures. Miscellaneous Writings, which include *Manual of the Mother Church* and other books by Mrs. Eddy The Bible (not considered as reliable). *Christian Science Journal*, *Christian Science Sentinel*, and other official periodicals.

Who Is God?

According to Mrs. Eddy, God is an impersonal principle of Life, Truth, Love, Intelligence, and Spirit. God is all that truly exists; matter is an illusion.

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus was not the Christ, but a man who displayed the Christ idea. “Christ” means perfection, not a person. Jesus was not God, and God can never become man or flesh. Jesus did not suffer and could not suffer for sins. Jesus did not die on the cross. Jesus was not resurrected physically. Jesus will not literally come back.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit is defined as the teaching of Christian Science—an impersonal power.

How to Be Saved

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

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What Happens After Death?

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

Other Facts, Beliefs, or Practices

Members use Christian Science “practitioners” (authorized professional healers who “treat” supposed illnesses for a fee) instead of doctors. Healing comes through realizing one cannot really be sick or hurt, and that the body cannot be ill, suffer pain, or die—since matter is an illusion. Attracts followers by claims of miraculous healing. Publishes *Christian Science Monitor* newspaper.