



**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

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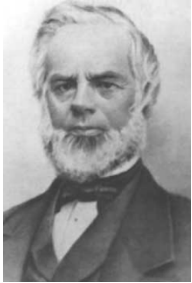
**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: INFLUENCES**



**Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815)**

- Developed idea of animal magnetism
- Magnetic fluid in body of humans
- Able to heal people through magnets and pressure points
- It was latter disproved


**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: INFLUENCES**



**Phineas P. Quimby (1802-1866)**


- Was a student of Mesmer
- “All is God and all is good”
- All sickness is an illusion
- Self-proclaimed doctor
- Healed people through visualization
- Used phrases like “the science of Christ,” “Christian science,” and “science and health”

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




**Mary Baker (1821-1910)**

- Parents were Congregationalist and strict Calvinist in NH
- Focus on the wrath and judgment of God




**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




“The doctrine of unconditional election or predestination, greatly troubled me: for I was unwilling to be saved, if my brothers and sisters were to be numbered among those who were doomed to perpetual banishment from God.” (Mary Baker Eddy. Retrospection and Introspection, 13:5-9.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- Struggled with chronic illness
- Interested in the healing stories of the Bible
- Some claimed that as a child she had the ability to heal others
- 1843: married George W. Glover
- He died 7 months later

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- 1853: married Dr. Daniel M. Patterson.
- 1862: sought Phineas P. Quimby’s help for “Spinal Inflammation”
- She quickly became a student

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- Mary “reached the scientific certainty that all causation rests with the Mind, and that every effect is a mental phenomena.”
- Claimed that sickness, death, and our physical bodies do not exist, but are only imagined

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- 1866: Mary claimed to have had a near fatal fall on icy pavement but was instantly healed when “the healing Truth dawned upon my senses.” (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 24 and Science and Health, p. 107.)
- Her attending physician as well as other correspondence from Mrs. Eddy at that time strongly dispute her “official” version of the event. (Anthony Hoekema, Christian Science, pp. 12-13.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- Spent three years in isolation developing Christian Science
- 1870: taught 12 lessons for only \$300
- Her graduates charged fees as high as any licensed medical doctor
- 1875: self-published Science and Health

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY**




- 1877: married Asa Gilbert Eddy
- 1879: started the first Christian Science Church called the Church of Christ, Scientist
- 1881: started the Massachusetts Metaphysical College
- 1883: published the first edition of The Christian Science Journal
- 1932: went from 50 followers to 2466 churches and 350,000 followers
- Today approximately 2,000 Churches of Christ, Scientist, in 80 countries

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: WRITINGS**




- Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures
- Miscellaneous Writings
- Manual of the Mother Church
- The Bible (not as reliable)
- Christian Science Journal
- Christian Science Sentinel
- Christian Science Monitor
- Other Mary Baker Eddy Writings

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: GOD** 

- God is an impersonal principle of life, truth, love, intelligence, and spirit


“God is All-in-all. God is good. Good is Mind. God, Spirit, being all, nothing is matter.” (Science and Health, p. 113.)

The Holy Spirit is defined as “Divine Science” (that is, the teaching of Christian Science)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: GOD** 


“The theory of three persons in one God (that is, a personal Trinity or Tri-unity) suggests polytheism, rather than the one ever-present I Am.” (Science and Health p. 256.)

“Life, Truth, and Love constitutes the triune Person called God... God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter. These three express in divine Science the threefold, essential nature of the infinite.” (Science and Health, pp. 331-32.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: MATTER** 

- God is all that truly exists; matter is an illusion


“It is contrary to Christian Science to suppose that life is either material or organically spiritual.” (Science and Health, p. 83.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: MAN** 

- Man is not matter but a Mind

“Mind is the I AM, or infinity. Mind never enters the finite.” (Christian Science, p. 336.)


“Immortal man was and is God’s image or idea, even the infinite expression of infinite Mind, and immortal man is coexistent and coeternal with that Mind.” (Christian Science, p. 336.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: PROBLEM** 

- Sin, evil, sickness, and death are an illusion

“The cause of all so-called disease is mental, a mortal fear, a mistaken belief.” (Science and Health, p. 337.)

- It is never explained where the illusion of evil came from

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: JESUS** 

- Jesus was a man who displayed the Christ idea (“Christ” means perfection, not a person)
- Christ was spiritual, Jesus was physical
- God cannot become flesh
- The Christ concept cannot suffer

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: JESUS**

“The spiritual Christ was infallible; Jesus as material manhood was not Christ.” (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 84.)

“The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed on 'the accursed tree,' than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business.” (Science and Health, p. 25.)

“If there had never existed such a person as the Galilean Prophet, it would make no difference to me.” (The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany, pp. 318-319.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: SOLUTION**

- Humanity is already eternally saved
- Work on oneness with God

“Jesus taught the way of Life by demonstration. There is but one way to heaven, harmony, and Christ in Divine Science shows us this way.” (Science and Health, p. 242.)

“Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them.” (Science and Health, p. 291.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: SOLUTION**

“It is impossible to gain control over the body in any other way [divine Mind-Prayer]. On this fundamental point, timid conservatism is absolutely inadmissible. Only through radical reliance on Truth can scientific healing power be realized.” (Science and Health, p. 167.)

“The admission to one's self that man is God's own likeness sets man free to master the infinite idea.” (Science and Health, p. 90.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: AFTERLIFE**

- Death is an illusion, the Mind ascends

“Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal, because sin is not there and man is found having no righteousness of his own, but in possession of 'the mind of the Lord,' as the Scripture says.” (Science and Health, p. 291.)

“No resurrection from the grave awaits Mind or Life, for the grave has no power over either.” (Science and Health, p. 291.)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: PRACTICES**

**Use of Doctors**

- Doctors and drugs are discouraged but not forbidden

“A scientific mental method is more sanitary than the use of drugs, and such a mental method produces permanent health.” (Science and Health, p. 79.)

- Due to recent controversy they now allow it

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: PRACTICES**

**Reading Rooms**

- There are approximately 2000 Christian Science Reading Room worldwide

