

**Biblical Christianity**

**Key Person or Founder, Date, Location**

**J**esus Christ. Founded about AD 30–33, in the Judean province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire. Followers of Jesus Christ became known as Christians.

**Key Writings**

**T**he Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament).

**Who is God?**

**T**he one God is Triune (one God in three Persons, not three gods): Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Often the title “God” designates the first Person, God the Father. God is a spiritual being without a physical body. He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe out of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect.

**Who is Jesus?**

**J**esus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation, and eternal life. He died on a cross according to God’s plan, as full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead on the third day, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next 40 days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God’s kingdom and judge the world.

**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

**T**he Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reprovcs, convicts, guides, teaches, and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor is he the Son, Jesus Christ.

**How to Be Saved**

**S**alvation is by God’s grace, not by an individual’s good works. Salvation must be received by faith. People must believe in their hearts that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God’s loving plan to forgive sinful people.

**What Happens After Death**

**B**elievers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final Judgment. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved will live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost will suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (Hell). Jesus’ bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too, will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies.

**Other Facts, Beliefs, or Practices**

**G**roup worship, usually in churches. No secret rites. Baptism and Lord’s Supper (Communion). Active voluntary missionary efforts. Aid to those in need: the poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden. Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament (Tanakh). Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another.



Founder

**M**ary Baker Eddy (1821–1910).  
Founded 1875 in Massachusetts. Current headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

Writings

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

God

**A**ccording 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.

Jesus

**J**esus 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. He did not suffer and could not suffer for sins. He did not die on the cross. He was not resurrected physically. He will not literally come back.

Holy Spirit

**H**oly spirit is defined as the teaching of Christian Science. Impersonal power.

Salvation

**H**umanity is already eternally saved. Sin, evil, sickness, and death are not real.

Death

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

Other Beliefs

**M**embers 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 (matter is an illusion). Attracts followers by claims of miraculous healing. Publishes Christian Science Monitor newspaper.

Founder

**C**harles (1854–1948) and Myrtle (1845–1931) Fillmore. Founded 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri. Headquarters in Unity Village, Missouri.

Writings

**U**nity magazine, Lessons in Truth, Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, the Bible (not as reliable, interpreted with "hidden" meanings).

God

**I**nvisible impersonal power. "God" is interchangeable with "Principle," "Law," "Being," "Mind," "Spirit." God is in everything, much as the soul is in the body. No Trinity. The spirit is reality; matter is not.

Jesus

**J**esus was a man and not the Christ. Instead, he was a man who had "Christ Consciousness." "Christ" is a state of perfection in every person. Jesus had lived many times before and was in search of his own salvation. Jesus did not die as a sacrifice for anyone's sins. Jesus did not rise physically and will never return to earth in physical form.

Holy Spirit

**T**he Holy Spirit is the law of God in action, "the executive power of both Father and Son." A "definite" thought in the mind of man.

Salvation

**B**y recognizing that each person is as much a Son of God as Jesus is. There is no evil, no devil, no sin, no poverty, and no old age. A person is reincarnated until he learns these truths and becomes "perfect."

Death

**D**eath is a result of wrong thinking. One moves to a different body (reincarnation) until enlightenment. No literal heaven or hell.

Other Beliefs

**W**orship services in Unity churches. Counseling and prayer ministry ("Silent Unity") by phone and mail. It is reported that Unity receives millions of prayer requests annually. Unity devotionals, such as Daily Word, are used by members of other religious groups and churches. Millions of pieces of literature are printed each year.

Founder

**F**ounded by L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986).  
Founded 1954 in California. Current headquarters in Los Angeles, California.

Writings

**D**ianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health and others by Hubbard. The Way to Happiness.

God

**D**oes not define God or Supreme Being, but rejects biblical description of God. Everyone is a "thetan," an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, but not all are aware of this.

Jesus

**J**esus is rarely mentioned in Scientology. Jesus was not the Creator, nor was he an "operating thetan" (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for sins.

Holy Spirit

**T**he Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.

Salvation

**N**o sin or need to repent. Salvation is freedom from reincarnation. One must work with an "auditor" on his "engrams" (hang-ups) to achieve the state of "clear," then progress up the "bridge to total freedom."

Death

**H**ell is a myth. People who get clear of engrams become operating thetans.

Other Beliefs

**M**embers observe birth of Hubbard and anniversary of publication of Dianetics. Controversy follows the group worldwide. Time magazine and Reader's Digest have published damaging exposés. Organizations related to Scientology include Narconon, Criminon, Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE, Hubbard College of Administration, Applied Scholastics.