### Key Person or Founder, Date, Location
Jesus 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
The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament).

### Who is God?
The 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?
Jesus 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?
The 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, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches, and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor is He the Son, Jesus Christ.

### How to Be Saved
Salvation 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
Believers 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
Group 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.
### Mormonism

**Founder**: Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805–1844), founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in 1830 in New York. Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Writings**
- The Book of Mormon
- Doctrine and Covenants
- Pearl of Great Price
- Bible (King James Version)
- Miscellaneous teachings of Mormon prophets and other LDS "general authorities."

**God**
- God the Father was once a man, but "progressed" to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother). No Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.
- Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the "elder brother" of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide atonement for everyone with resurrection.

**Impersonal "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.**

**Holy Spirit**
- The "holy spirit" is different from the "Holy Ghost." The "holy spirit" is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or "light of Christ").

### Sun Myung Moon

**Founder**: Sun Myung Moon (b. 1920). Founded "Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity" 1954 in South Korea. Current headquarters in New York City.

**Writings**
- Divine Principle
- Holy Spirit
- Holy Spirit Association
- Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity

**God**
- God is both positive and negative. God created the universe out of himself; the universe is God's "body." God does not know the future, is suffering, and needs man (Sun Myung Moon) to make him happy. No Trinity.

**Jesus**
- Jesus was a perfect man, not God. He is the son of Zechariah, not born of a virgin. His mission was to unite the Jesus behind him, find a perfect bride, and begin a perfect family. The mission failed. Jesus did not resurrect physically. The second coming of Christ is fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon, who is superior to Jesus and will finish Jesus' mission.

**Holy Ghost**
- The Holy Spirit is a feminine spirit who works with Jesus in the spirit world to lead people to Sun Myung Moon.

**Death**
- Obedience to and acceptance of the True Parents (Moon and his wife) eliminate sin and result in perfection. Those married by Moon and his wife drink a special holy wine containing 21 ingredients (including the True Parents' blood).

**Other Beliefs**
- After death one goes to the spirit world. There is no resurrection. Members advance by convincing others to follow Sun Myung Moon. Everyone will be saved, even Satan.

**Also known as “Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.”** Mass marriages, based on different racial backgrounds, arranged and performed by Moon. Members believe that Jesus bows down to Sun Myung Moon and that Moon is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the Lamb of God. Contact with spirits of the dead accepted.

### Jehovah's Witnesses


**All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (New World Translation only), Reasoning from the Scriptures, You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Watchtower and Awake! magazines.**

**God**
- One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.

**Jesus**
- Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he "returned" invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

**Holy Spirit**
- Impersonal "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.

**Salvation**
- Be baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses. Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by "do-gooder" work. Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 "anointed ones." This number is already reached.

**Death**
- The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, the "great crowd," live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be annihilated.

**Other Beliefs**
- Known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Meet in "Kingdom Halls" instead of churches. Active members encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door. Once a year, Lord's Evening Meal (communion); only "anointed" ones may partake. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Forbid service, to salute the flag, work in the military, or accept blood transfusions.

**Other Beliefs**
- No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two-year missionary commitment encouraged. Door-to-door proselytizing. Secret temple rituals available only to members in good standing. Extensive social network. People of African ancestry were not granted full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.
**Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1910).**
Founded 1875 in Massachusetts. Current headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Science 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) includes.

**Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel,** and other official periodicals.

**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.**

**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. 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** is defined as the teaching of Christian Science. 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** 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.

**Charles (1854–1948) and Myrtle (1845–1931) Fillmore.** Founded 1869 in Kansas City, Missouri. Headquarters in Unity Village, Missouri.

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

**Jesus** was 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.

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

**Worship 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 publications, such as Daily Word, are used by members of other religious groups and churches. Millions of pieces of literature are printed each year.

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

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

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

**The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.**

**No sin or need to repent. Salvation is freedom from reincarnation. One must work with an "auditor" to his "engram" (hang-ups) to achieve the state of "clear," then progress up the "bridge to total freedom."**

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

**Members 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, Crimmin, Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE, Hubbard College of Administration, Applied Scholastics.