



Apologetics against Christian Scientist

Christian Science, founded by Mary Baker Eddy in the 19th century, is a religious movement that interprets Christianity through a metaphysical and spiritual lens. The main argument of Christian Scientists centers on the idea that **spiritual reality is the only true reality** and that sickness, sin, and even death are illusions resulting from a misunderstanding of God's nature and His creation.

Core Arguments of Christian Science:

1. God is Absolute and Only Good

- Christian Scientists argue that God is purely good and that He does not create evil, sickness, or suffering.
- This belief is based on passages like **1 John 1:5**:
"God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

Counter: Christian Scientists claim that because God is absolutely good, evil, suffering, and sickness must be illusions. However, while God is indeed perfectly good (1 John 1:5), Scripture repeatedly affirms the reality of suffering and evil.

- **The Reality of Suffering** – Job, a righteous man, suffered greatly, yet God never told him his suffering was an illusion (Job 1-2). Instead, God permitted Job's trials to demonstrate faithfulness and ultimately reveal His sovereignty.
- **Jesus Acknowledged Evil and Suffering** – Jesus did not dismiss suffering as an illusion; rather, He healed the sick and cast out demons (Mark 1:34), recognizing the real effects of sin in the world.
- **Romans 8:22** – “For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” Paul affirms that creation itself is subjected to corruption and suffering due to sin.

If suffering were merely a misunderstanding of God's nature, Jesus would have corrected people's perception rather than healing them. Instead, He actively engaged with the reality of sickness and evil.

2. Matter is an Illusion

- They claim that the physical world, including sickness and pain, is not ultimately real but a false belief of the human mind.
- This idea is derived from a metaphysical interpretation of scriptures like **John 6:63**:
"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit."

Counter: Christian Science teaches that the physical world is not ultimately real, drawing from passages like John 6:63 ("It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit"). However, this misinterprets Jesus' words. He was emphasizing the necessity of spiritual rebirth, not denying the reality of the physical world.

- **God Created the Physical World and Called It Good** – Genesis 1:31 states, "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." If matter were an illusion, why would God call His creation good?
- **Jesus Had a Physical Body** – After His resurrection, Jesus proved His physical reality:
 - He ate food (Luke 24:42-43).
 - He invited Thomas to touch His wounds (John 20:27).
 - His bodily resurrection confirms that the physical is real and redeemed, not illusory.
- **The Incarnation Confirms the Importance of the Physical World** – John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." If matter were an illusion, why would God take on physical form?

The denial of matter contradicts both the doctrine of creation and the bodily resurrection of Christ.

3. Healing Comes Through Spiritual Understanding

- Christian Scientists reject medical treatment, believing instead that prayer and understanding God's nature bring healing.
- They cite **Matthew 9:22** (Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood):
"Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well."

Counter: Christian Science rejects medical treatment in favor of spiritual healing. While prayer is essential, Scripture never teaches that seeking medical help is a lack of faith.

- **Luke, a Physician** – The apostle Paul traveled with Luke, "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), showing that medical practice was not condemned.
- **Paul Advised Medical Treatment** – 1 Timothy 5:23: "Use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." Paul recommended a physical remedy, demonstrating that medicine and faith are not mutually exclusive.

- **James 5:14-15 Encourages Both Prayer and Action** – “Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” The anointing with oil likely had medicinal as well as symbolic purposes.

Biblical faith does not require rejecting medical help. Instead, it recognizes that all healing comes from God, whether through prayer, medicine, or both.

4. Jesus as the Example, Not the Atoning Sacrifice

- While they believe in Jesus, they argue that his primary role was to demonstrate divine truth, not to atone for sins.
- They emphasize Jesus' **healings** as proof that understanding God's reality can eliminate disease.
- They often quote **John 14:12**:
"The one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also."

Counter: Christian Scientists claim Jesus primarily demonstrated divine truth rather than atoning for sin. However, Scripture explicitly teaches that Christ's death was a substitutionary sacrifice for humanity's sins.

- **Isaiah 53:5** – “But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; the punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”
- **Hebrews 9:22** – “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Jesus' sacrifice was necessary for salvation.
- **1 Peter 2:24** – “And He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.”

If Jesus' role were merely to demonstrate truth, His suffering and death would be unnecessary. The Bible presents His atonement as the central work of redemption.

5. The Bible is Interpreted Spiritually, Not Literally

- Christian Scientists rely on Mary Baker Eddy's book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* to interpret the Bible in a spiritual, non-literal way.
- They argue that much of the Bible speaks symbolically, and the key to salvation is understanding divine principles rather than adhering to orthodox Christian doctrine.

Counter: Christian Scientists rely heavily on *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy for biblical interpretation. However, the Bible warns against adding to or altering God's Word.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – “All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness.” Scripture is sufficient on its own.
- **Revelation 22:18-19** – The Bible warns against adding or taking away from God’s Word.
- **Jesus Interpreted the Old Testament Literally** – Jesus affirmed historical events like Noah’s flood (Luke 17:26-27) and Jonah’s time in the fish (Matthew 12:40). If Jesus took Scripture literally where intended, so should we.

Christian Science replaces biblical authority with human interpretation, contradicting Scripture’s self-sufficiency.

Conclusion: Christian Science Misinterprets Christianity

Christian Science distorts key biblical doctrines by denying the reality of sin, suffering, and Christ’s atonement. Orthodox Christianity teaches:

- Suffering and evil are real but will ultimately be defeated (Revelation 21:4).
- The physical world is God’s creation, not an illusion (Genesis 1:31).
- Faith and medicine are not opposed (Colossians 4:14).
- Jesus’ death was an atoning sacrifice (Isaiah 53:5).
- Scripture is sufficient without additional human interpretation (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

By rejecting these core truths, Christian Science strays from biblical Christianity, replacing divine revelation with metaphysical speculation.

Criticism from Mainstream Christianity

Most Christian denominations reject Christian Science because:

- It denies the physical reality of sickness and suffering.
- It reinterprets Jesus’ role away from substitutionary atonement.
- It contradicts biblical teachings about the material world being created *good* (Genesis 1:31).
- It discourages medical treatment, sometimes leading to preventable deaths.



Article Written by Kyle St.Andrews