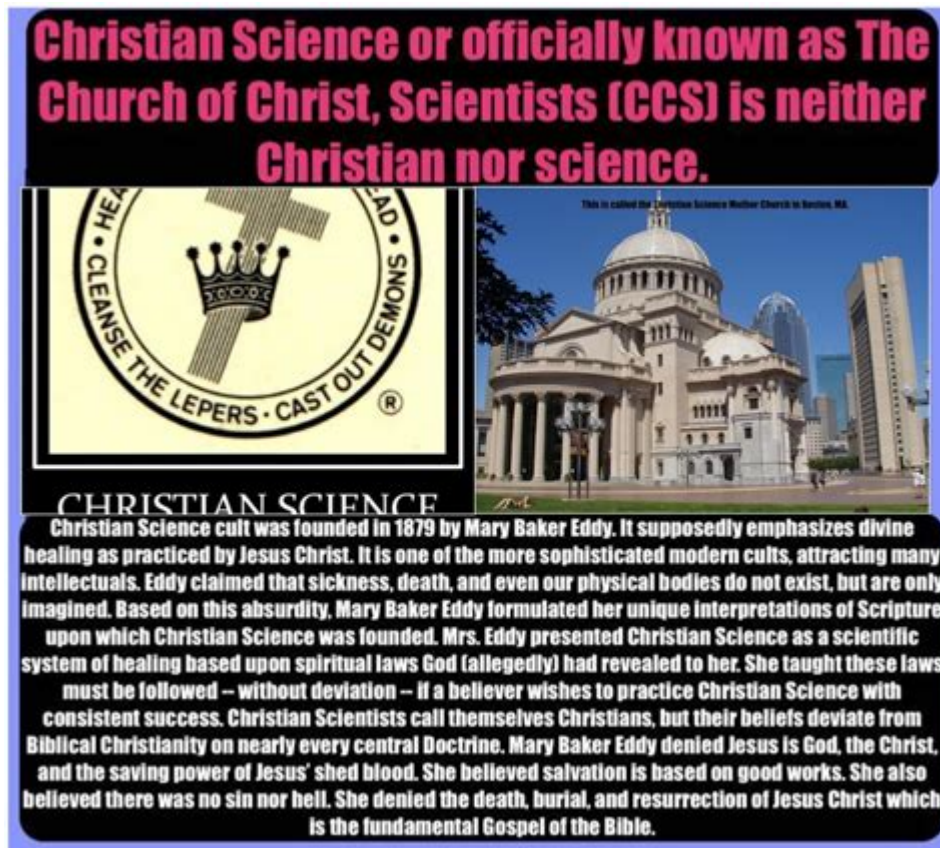


Is Christian Scientist A Cult



Is Christian Science a Cult? A Critical Examination

The question, "Is Christian Science a cult?" is a complex one, sparking debate and raising concerns for many. This in-depth analysis will explore the core tenets of Christian Science, examining its history, practices, and social dynamics to help you form your own informed opinion. We'll delve into the criteria often used to define a cult and objectively assess how Christian Science measures up against them. This isn't about judging beliefs but about understanding the structure and impact of this often-misunderstood faith.

Understanding Christian Science: Core Beliefs and Practices

Christian Science, founded by Mary Baker Eddy in the 19th century, centers around the belief that God is the sole creator and that all reality is spiritual. It posits that illness and suffering are illusions stemming from a misunderstanding of God's nature and power. Healing, therefore, is achieved not through medical intervention but through prayer and spiritual understanding, often facilitated by practitioners trained in Christian Science healing techniques.

Key Doctrines:

Spiritual Healing: The core tenet is the power of prayer to heal physical ailments. Material remedies are generally rejected.

Divine Mind: God is viewed as the sole intelligence, and all true knowledge comes from God.

Rejection of Materialism: The material world is seen as secondary and illusory, leading to a rejection of conventional medicine in favor of spiritual healing.

The Bible as Authority: The Bible is the primary source of teachings and authority within Christian Science.

The Cult Accusation: Examining the Criteria

Defining a "cult" is inherently difficult, with no universally accepted criteria. However, common characteristics often cited include:

Authoritarian Leadership: Is there an unquestioned leader or small group wielding significant power?

Isolation and Control: Does the group isolate members from outside influences or control their access to information?

Mind Control Techniques: Are manipulative or coercive techniques used to maintain loyalty and obedience?

Exploitation and Abuse: Are members financially or emotionally exploited or abused?

Intense Loyalty Demands: Is unwavering loyalty demanded, often at the expense of other relationships?

Christian Science and the Cult Criteria: An Objective Assessment

Applying these criteria to Christian Science requires careful consideration. While the writings of Mary Baker Eddy hold significant authority within the faith, it's not necessarily equivalent to the unquestioned authoritarian leadership seen in some cults. The Church of Christ, Scientist, has a structured hierarchy, but decision-making isn't concentrated in the hands of a single individual.

Isolation from conventional medicine is a more significant concern. The rejection of medical treatment, particularly for serious illnesses, has resulted in tragic consequences in some cases. This raises ethical questions and concerns about the potential harm to members who prioritize spiritual healing over medically proven treatments.

While overt mind control techniques are generally absent, the emphasis on interpreting scripture through a specific lens, and the potential for social pressure to conform to community beliefs, raise concerns about freedom of thought and potential for subtle coercion.

Financial exploitation is generally not a prominent feature of Christian Science, although members donate to support the church's activities. Cases of emotional or psychological harm due to the rejection of medical care are more concerning and require careful examination.

Conclusion: Navigating the Nuances

Whether Christian Science constitutes a cult is a subjective judgment based on the criteria employed. While it doesn't exhibit all the hallmarks of high-control groups, certain aspects – primarily the rejection of conventional medicine and potential for social pressure – warrant careful consideration and raise legitimate ethical concerns. It's crucial to approach this topic with sensitivity, respecting individuals' beliefs while acknowledging the potential for harm arising from practices that prioritize faith over evidence-based medicine. Further investigation and critical evaluation are essential to forming your own informed opinion.

FAQs:

1. Are Christian Scientists allowed to see doctors? While not encouraged, Christian Scientists are not explicitly forbidden from seeking medical attention. The decision ultimately rests with the individual.
2. How is Christian Science different from other Christian denominations? Christian Science differs significantly in its emphasis on spiritual healing, its rejection of materialism, and its interpretation of biblical texts.
3. What are the potential risks associated with Christian Science healing? The primary risk is the potential for delayed or inadequate medical treatment for serious illnesses, leading to potentially life-threatening consequences.
4. Has Christian Science faced legal challenges? Yes, Christian Science has faced legal challenges, particularly regarding the treatment of children, leading to court cases and legislative interventions in some jurisdictions.
5. Where can I learn more about Christian Science? You can explore the official Church of Christ, Scientist website and various academic resources to learn more about its history, doctrines, and practices. However, it's crucial to approach information from multiple sources to gain a comprehensive understanding.

is christian scientist a cult: Denominations Comparison Rose Publishing, 2013-12-06 The best-selling Denominations Comparison ebook contains a side-by-side comparison of what 12 Christian denominations believe about God, the Trinity, Jesus, and other spiritual issues. This easy-to-read ebook summarizes the beliefs of the different denominations on key topics and includes a Family Tree of Denominations which reveals the roots of today's denominations. Denominations Comparison includes a look at: Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anabaptist, Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian, Churches of Christ, Adventist, and Pentecostal churches. Each denomination believes in the deity of Christ and the importance of Scripture, so how are the groups different? The Denominations Comparison shows what denominations have in common as well as where they differ. The Denominations Comparison ebook compares 12 denominations on 11 different topics, such as:

- When it was founded and by whom
- The number of

adherents in 2000 •How Scripture is viewed •Who God is •Who Jesus is •How individuals are saved •What happens after death •The definition of the Church •How each looks at the Sacraments •Other practices and beliefs •The major divisions and trends today. The Denominations Comparison ebook is an excellent source for pastors and teachers who want to present denominational beliefs in a concise and focused manner. The full color ebook organizes the denominations comparisons in the order in which they came to be, first covering the six liturgical denominations followed by the six non-liturgical denominations. The Liturgical Churches compared are: •Catholic •Orthodox •Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) •Anglican (Episcopal Church; Reformed Episcopal Church) •Presbyterian (The Presbyterian Church (USA) or PCUSA; The Presbyterian Church in America or PCA) •Methodist Churches (United Methodist Church; African Methodist Episcopal; Free Methodists) The Non-Liturgical Churches compared are: •Anabaptist (The Mennonite Church; Church of the Brethren; Amish) •Congregational (United Church of Christ: The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches; The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference) •Baptist (Southern Baptists, American Baptists; National Baptists) •Churches of Christ (Christian Church, Disciples of Christ) •Adventist (Seventh-Day Adventist Church, SDA, 7th Day Adventist) •Pentecostal Churches (Assemblies of God; Church of God in Christ) In addition to the side-side comparison of the 12 Christian denominations, the Denominations Comparison ebook contains a list of 42 Helpful Words to Know for studying denominational differences. This list defines words such as: Anabaptist, apocrypha, canon, Eucharist, incarnate, pope, predestination, and puritan. The Denominations Comparison ebook also contains several helpful references, such as: •Official web sites for major denominations •General online references •Other web sites for the major traditions. Denominations Comparison also contains a short summary on the following Christian groups, their founders, size, and denominational ties (if applicable): •Calvary Chapel •Christian and Missionary Alliance •Church of God •Church of the Nazarene •Evangelical Covenant Church •Evangelical Free Church of America •International Church of the Foursquare Gospel •Salvation Army •Vineyard Ministries International Topical index: Adventists, African Methodist Episcopal, Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptists, Calvary Chapel, Catholic Church, Charismatic, Church of Christ, Church of England, Church of God, Congregational Churches, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Church, Foursquare Church, Free Methodists, Holiness Churches, liberal denominations, Lutheran Churches, Methodist Church, Orthodox Church, Pentecostal Church, Presbyterian Church, Quakers, Reformed Church, Roman Catholicism, Salvation Army, Trinity, United Methodist Church, Vineyard Churches, Westminster Confession.

is christian scientist a cult: The Kingdom of the Cults Walter Martin, Ravi Zacharias, 2003-10 Newly updated, this definitive reference work on major cult systems is the gold standard text on cults with nearly a million copies sold.

is christian scientist a cult: Leaving Christian Science Lauren Hunter, 2020-08-23 Whether you're a Christian Scientist searching for answers or a former follower still struggling to let go of the difficult and confusing teachings of Christian Science, this book can help you on your search for truth. In these ten intensely personal narratives, former Christian Scientists bravely recount their journey out of the religion and into authentic, biblical faith in Jesus Christ. Each chapter addresses a different theme, shining light on theological inconsistencies taught by Mary Baker Eddy in her book Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. These themes include matter, Jesus Christ, contagion, prayer, and sin. With reflection questions, pastoral teaching, related Bible verses, and a guiding letter from the author, each story navigates common obstacles and paves the way for a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. For those yearning to find truth, there is hope to be found here.

is christian scientist a cult: God's Perfect Child Caroline Fraser, 2018-06-19 From Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former Christian Scientist Caroline Fraser comes the first unvarnished account of one of America's most controversial and little-understood religious movements. Millions of Americans – from Lady Astor to Ginger Rogers to Watergate conspirator H. R. Haldeman – have

been touched by the Church of Christ, Scientist. Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879, Christian Science was based on a belief that intense contemplation of the perfection of God can heal all ills – an extreme expression of the American faith in self-reliance. In this unflinching investigation, Caroline Fraser, herself raised in a Scientist household, shows how the Church transformed itself from a small, eccentric sect into a politically powerful and socially respectable religion, and explores the human cost of Christian Science's remarkable rise. Fraser examines the strange life and psychology of Mary Baker Eddy, who lived in dread of a kind of witchcraft she called Malicious Animal Magnetism. She takes us into the closed world of Eddy's followers, who refuse to acknowledge the existence of illness and death and reject modern medicine, even at the cost of their children's lives. She reveals just how Christian Science managed to gain extraordinary legal and Congressional sanction for its dubious practices and tracks its enormous influence on new-age beliefs and other modern healing cults. A passionate exposé of zealotry, *God's Perfect Child* tells one of the most dramatic and little-known stories in American religious history.

is christian scientist a cult: *Christian Science on Trial* Rennie B. Schoepflin, 2003 Tracing the movement during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Schoepflin illuminates its struggle for existence against the efforts of organized American medicine to curtail its activities..

is christian scientist a cult: Science and Health Mary Baker Eddy, 1912

is christian scientist a cult: *Bad Faith* Paul Offit, 2015-03-10 When Jesus said, "Suffer the children," faith healing is not what he had in mind

is christian scientist a cult: *The Life of Mary Baker G. Eddy and the History of Christian Science* Willa Cather, 1993-01-01 This controversial biography of the founder of the Christian Science church was serialized in McClure's Magazine in 1907-8 and published as a book the next year. It disappeared almost overnight and has been difficult to find ever since. Although a Canadian newspaperwoman named Georgine Milmine collected the material and was credited as the author, *The Life Of Mary Baker G. Eddy* was actually written by Willa Cather, an editor at McClure's at that time. In his introduction to this Bison Book edition, David Stouck reveals new evidence of Cather's authorship of *The Life of Mary Baker G. Eddy*. He discusses her fidelity to facts and her concern with psychology and philosophy that would take creative form later on. Indeed, this biography contains some of the finest portrait sketches and reflections on human nature that Willa Cather would ever write.

is christian scientist a cult: *Perfect Peril* Linda S., Linda Kramer,, Ph D Linda S Kramer, 2015-01-07 Christian Scientists are trapped in a belief system that distorts their perception of reality, teaches them to mistrust their senses, and denies them many of the natural instincts that go along with being human. *Perfect Peril* is a tool for understanding and recovering from the Christian Science mindset. The book examines Christian Science in light of Robert J. Lifton's classic criteria for thought reform and shows how this religion lures its followers into thinking patterns that can harm them emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It also examines Mary Baker Eddy's charismatic personality, leadership style, claim to divine authority, and misuse of biblical terms. *Perfect Peril* has been a source of validation, understanding, and resolution for people negatively impacted by Christian Science.

is christian scientist a cult: Manual of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts Mary Baker Eddy, 1908

is christian scientist a cult: Christian Science Mark Twain, 1907 In this book, my [Twain's] purpose has been to present a character portrait of Mrs. Eddy [founder of Christian Science Society], drawn from her own acts and words solely, not from hearsay and rumor; and to explain the nature an scope of her Monarchy, as revealed in the laws by which she governs it, and which she wrote herself. The controversial text was originally rejected by Twain's publisher.

is christian scientist a cult: Fathermothergod Lucia Greenhouse, 2011 Chronicles the author's coming-of-age in a family whose Christian Science faith forbade consultations with doctors or the use of mainstream medicine, a belief system that caused doubt and bitter divides when the author's mother became seriously ill. A first book. 30,000 first printing.

is christian scientist a cult: The Law of Psychic Phenomena Thomson Jay Hudson, 2022-10-27 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

is christian scientist a cult: The Four Major Cults Anthony A. Hoekema, 1963

is christian scientist a cult: Faith Versus Fact Jerry A. Coyne, 2016-05-17 "A superbly argued book." —Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion* The New York Times bestselling author of *Why Evolution is True* explains why any attempt to make religion compatible with science is doomed to fail In this provocative book, evolutionary biologist Jerry A. Coyne lays out in clear, dispassionate detail why the toolkit of science, based on reason and empirical study, is reliable, while that of religion—including faith, dogma, and revelation—leads to incorrect, untestable, or conflicting conclusions. Coyne is responding to a national climate in which more than half of Americans don't believe in evolution, members of Congress deny global warming, and long-conquered childhood diseases are reappearing because of religious objections to inoculation, and he warns that religious prejudices in politics, education, medicine, and social policy are on the rise. Extending the bestselling works of Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, and Christopher Hitchens, he demolishes the claims of religion to provide verifiable "truth" by subjecting those claims to the same tests we use to establish truth in science. Coyne irrefutably demonstrates the grave harm—to individuals and to our planet—in mistaking faith for fact in making the most important decisions about the world we live in. Praise for *Faith Versus Fact*: "A profound and lovely book . . . showing that the honest doubts of science are better . . . than the false certainties of religion." —Sam Harris, author of *The End of Faith*

is christian scientist a cult: Blessings Karen Molenaar Terrell, 2005-08-09 *Blessings: Adventures of a Madcap Christian Scientist* follows the author as she uses her understanding of the power of Good, God (Life, Truth, and Love), to overcome life's challenges. We follow the Lucy Ricardo of Christian Scientists as she climbs Mount Rainier, gets herself in a bit of a fix in the Grand Canyon, participates in an impromptu peace summit at Heathrow Airport, meets her husband, discovers the joys of motherhood, and finds her home.

is christian scientist a cult: The Religion that Kills Dr. Linda S. Kramer, Linda Kramer, 2000 A child dies as its parents declare that nothing is wrong. An adult suffers silently with a treatable disease. Church members emotionally neglect each other in times of illness, convinced that talking about a problem will make it difficult to heal. Welcome to the hidden world of Christian science. Few people realise that Christian scientists are trapped by a way of thinking which twists their perception of reality, teaches them to mistrust their senses, and short-circuits their ability to make informed, reasoned decisions regarding health care. In short, few people realise that Christian Scientists are under 'mind control'.

is christian scientist a cult: The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany Mary Baker Eddy, 1913

is christian scientist a cult: Why Evolution is True Jerry A. Coyne, 2010-01-14 For all the discussion in the media about creationism and 'Intelligent Design', virtually nothing has been said about the evidence in question - the evidence for evolution by natural selection. Yet, as this succinct and important book shows, that evidence is vast, varied, and magnificent, and drawn from many disparate fields of science. The very latest research is uncovering a stream of evidence revealing evolution in action - from the actual observation of a species splitting into two, to new fossil discoveries, to the deciphering of the evidence stored in our genome. *Why Evolution is True* weaves together the many threads of modern work in genetics, palaeontology, geology, molecular biology, anatomy, and development to demonstrate the 'indelible stamp' of the processes first proposed by

Darwin. It is a crisp, lucid, and accessible statement that will leave no one with an open mind in any doubt about the truth of evolution.

is christian scientist a cult: Retrospection and Introspection Mary Baker Eddy, 1892

is christian scientist a cult: Miscellaneous Writings Mary Baker Eddy, 1896

is christian scientist a cult: 52 Churches in 52 Weeks Dave Boice, 2018-10-09 If you could visit a different church each Sunday for one full year... Where would you go? Who would you see? What would happen to your faith? After a string of bad first dates and no church to call home, Dave Boice chronicles his yearlong spiritual journey in search for something more. What started as a simple endeavor to find a hometown church turned into a thrilling spiritual adventure that is sidesplittingly witty and deeply emotional. From the streets of Manhattan to the beaches of Orange County, Boice explores numerous denominations including Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Quaker, Greek Orthodox, Christian Science, and other churches. From 20,000-seat megachurches to being the lone congregant at a Scientology service, no building was too big (or as a visit to The World's Smallest Church can attest) too small. He danced with Pentecostals in Arkansas, immersed himself in prayer with monks that make beer in Massachusetts, and headbanged at a church known for heavy metal music in Ohio. You'll hear sermons from some of Christianity's most widespread preachers (Joel Osteen, T.D. Jakes), most intellectual (Tim Keller and Os Guinness), most emergent (Nadia Bolz-Weber and Jay Bakker), to even the most curious (Todd Burpo from Heaven is For Real). Boice's unique undertaking and honest reflection reveals startling epiphanies and insights that will engage both believers and skeptics. 52 Churches in 52 Weeks is a must-read for anyone who wrestles with faith in the 21st century.

is christian scientist a cult: The Problem of Democracy Nancy Isenberg, Andrew Burstein, 2020-04-14 Told with authority and style. . . Crisply summarizing the Adamses' legacy, the authors stress principle over partisanship.--The Wall Street Journal How the father and son presidents foresaw the rise of the cult of personality and fought those who sought to abuse the weaknesses inherent in our democracy. Until now, no one has properly dissected the intertwined lives of the second and sixth (father and son) presidents. John and John Quincy Adams were brilliant, prickly politicians and arguably the most independently minded among leaders of the founding generation. Distrustful of blind allegiance to a political party, they brought a healthy skepticism of a brand-new system of government to the country's first 50 years. They were unpopular for their fears of the potential for demagoguery lurking in democracy, and--in a twist that predicted the turn of twenty-first century politics--they warned against, but were unable to stop, the seductive appeal of political celebrities Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. In a bold recasting of the Adamses' historical roles, The Problem of Democracy is a major critique of the ways in which their prophetic warnings have been systematically ignored over the centuries. It's also an intimate family drama that brings out the torment and personal hurt caused by the gritty conduct of early American politics. Burstein and Isenberg make sense of the presidents' somewhat iconoclastic, highly creative engagement with America's political and social realities. By taking the temperature of American democracy, from its heated origins through multiple upheavals, the authors reveal the dangers and weaknesses that have been present since the beginning. They provide a clear-eyed look at a decoy democracy that masks the reality of elite rule while remaining open, since the days of George Washington, to a very undemocratic result in the formation of a cult surrounding the person of an elected leader.

is christian scientist a cult: For the Glory of God Rodney Stark, 2004-08-29 Rodney Stark's provocative new book argues that, whether we like it or not, people acting for the glory of God have formed our modern culture. Continuing his project of identifying the widespread consequences of monotheism, Stark shows that the Christian conception of God resulted--almost inevitably and for the same reasons--in the Protestant Reformation, the rise of modern science, the European witch-hunts, and the Western abolition of slavery. In the process, he explains why Christian and Islamic images of God yielded such different cultural results, leading Christians but not Muslims to foster science, burn witches, and denounce slavery. With his usual clarity and skepticism toward the

received wisdom, Stark finds the origins of these disparate phenomena within monotheistic religious organizations. Endemic in such organizations are pressures to maintain religious intensity, which lead to intense conflicts and schisms that have far-reaching social results. Along the way, Stark debunks many commonly accepted ideas. He interprets the sixteenth-century flowering of science not as a sudden revolution that burst religious barriers, but as the normal, gradual, and direct outgrowth of medieval theology. He also shows that the very ideas about God that sustained the rise of science led also to intense witch-hunting by otherwise clear-headed Europeans, including some celebrated scientists. This conception of God likewise yielded the Christian denunciation of slavery as an abomination--and some of the fiercest witch-hunters were devoted participants in successful abolitionist movements on both sides of the Atlantic. For the Glory of God is an engrossing narrative that accounts for the very different histories of the Christian and Muslim worlds. It fundamentally changes our understanding of religion's role in history and the forces behind much of what we point to as secular progress.

is christian scientist a cult: *Gospelbound* Collin Hansen, Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra, 2021-04-06 A profound exploration of how to hold on to hope when our unchanging faith collides with a changing culture, from two respected Christian storytellers and thought leaders. "Offers neither spin control nor image maintenance for the evangelical tribe, but genuine hope."—Russell Moore, president of ERLC As the pressures of health warnings, economic turmoil, and partisan politics continue to rise, the influence of gospel-focused Christians seems to be waning. In the public square and popular opinion, we are losing our voice right when it's needed most for Christ's glory and the common good. But there's another story unfolding too—if you know where to look. In *Gospelbound*, Collin Hansen and Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra counter these growing fears with a robust message of resolute hope for anyone hungry for good news. Join them in exploring profound stories of Christians who are quietly changing the world in the name of Jesus—from the wild world of digital media to the stories of ancient saints and unsung contemporary activists on the frontiers of justice and mercy. Discover how, in these dark times, the light of Jesus shines even brighter. You haven't heard the whole story. And that's good news.

is christian scientist a cult: *Rudimental Divine Science* Mary Baker Eddy, 1908

is christian scientist a cult: *Encyclopedic Handbook of Cults in America* J. Gordon Melton, 1992 First Published in 1993. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

is christian scientist a cult: *The Science Delusion* Curtis White, 2013-05-28 One of our most brilliant social critics—author of the bestselling *The Middle Mind*—presents a scathing critique of the "delusions" of science alongside a rousing defense of the tradition of Romanticism and the "big" questions. With the rise of religion critics such as Richard Dawkins, and of pseudo-science advocates such as Malcolm Gladwell and Jonah Lehrer, you're likely to become a subject of ridicule if you wonder "Why is there something instead of nothing?" or "What is our purpose on earth?" Instead, at universities around the world, and in the general cultural milieu, we're all being taught that science can resolve all questions without the help of philosophy, politics, or the humanities. In short, the rich philosophical debates of the 19th century have been nearly totally abandoned, argues critic Curtis White. An atheist himself, White nonetheless calls this new turn "scientism"—and fears what it will do to our culture if allowed to flourish without challenge. In fact, in "scientism" White sees a new religion with many unexamined assumptions. In this brilliant multi-part critique, he aims at a TED talk by a distinguished neuroscientist in which we are told that human thought is merely the product of our "connectome," a map of neural connections in the brain that is yet to be fully understood. . . . He whips a widely respected physicist who argues that our new understanding of the origins of the universe obviates any philosophical inquiry . . . and ends with a learned defense of the tradition of Romanticism, which White believes our technology and science-obsessed world desperately needs to rediscover. It's the only way, he argues, that we can see our world clearly. . . and change it.

is christian scientist a cult: *Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism* Martin E. Marty, 2011-06-15 Many American's today are taking note of the surprisingly strong political force that is the religious right. Controversial decisions by the government are met with hundreds of lobbyists,

millions of dollars of advertising spending, and a powerful grassroots response. How has the fundamentalist movement managed to resist the pressures of the scientific community and the draw of modern popular culture to hold on to their ultra-conservative Christian views? Understanding the movement's history is key to answering this question. Fundamentalism and American Culture has long been considered a class.

is christian scientist a cult: The Four Major Cults Anthony A. Hoekema, Anthony A. Hoekema, 1989-01-09 This is a print on demand book and is therefore non- returnable. This standard work gives a history of each cult (Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Seventh-Day Adventism, and Mormonism) and sets out its doctrines, following the customary divisions of theology. The major teachings peculiar to each cult are examined in five appendices.

is christian scientist a cult: How We Believe Michael Shermer, 2000-11 Recent polls report that 96% of Americans believe in God. Why is this? Why, despite the rise of science, technology, and secular education, are people turning to religion in greater numbers than ever before? Why do people believe in God at all?

is christian scientist a cult: Rewilding the World Caroline Fraser, 2014-04-29 A gripping account of the environmental crusade to save the world's most endangered species and landscapes—the last best hope for preserving our natural home Scientists worldwide are warning of the looming extinction of thousands of species, from tigers and polar bears to rare flowers, birds, and insects. If the destruction continues, a third of all plants and animals could disappear by 2050—and with them earth's life-support ecosystems that provide our food, water, medicine, and natural defenses against climate change. Now Caroline Fraser offers the first definitive account of a visionary campaign to confront this crisis: rewilding. Breathtaking in scope and ambition, rewilding aims to save species by restoring habitats, reviving migration corridors, and brokering peace between people and predators. Traveling with wildlife biologists and conservationists, Fraser reports on the vast projects that are turning Europe's former Iron Curtain into a greenbelt, creating trans-frontier Peace Parks to renew elephant routes throughout Africa, and linking protected areas from the Yukon to Mexico and beyond. An inspiring story of scientific discovery and grassroots action, *Rewilding the World* offers hope for a richer, wilder future.

is christian scientist a cult: How to Argue like Jesus Joe Carter, John Coleman, 2008-12-18 Uses Jesus' words and actions found in the New Testament to systematically evaluate his rhetorical stylings, drawing real lessons from his teachings that today's readers can employ. Jesus of Nazareth never wrote a book, held political office, or wielded a sword. He never gained sway with the mighty or influential. He never took up arms against the governing powers in Rome. He was a lower-class worker who died an excruciating death at the age of thirty-three. Yet, in spite of all odds-obscurity, powerlessness, and execution-his words revolutionized human history. *How to Argue Like Jesus* examines the life and words of Jesus and describes the various ways in which he sought-through the spoken word, his life, and his disciples-to reach others with his message. The authors then pull some very simple rhetorical lessons from Jesus' life that readers can use today. Both Christian and non-Christian leaders in just about any field can improve their ability to communicate effectively by studying the words and methods of history's greatest communicator.

is christian scientist a cult: The Historical Reliability of the New Testament Craig L. Blomberg, 2016-11-01 Questions about the reliability of the New Testament are commonly raised today both by biblical scholars and popular media. Drawing on decades of research, Craig Blomberg addresses all of the major objections to the historicity of the New Testament in one comprehensive volume. Topics addressed include the formation of the Gospels, the transmission of the text, the formation of the canon, alleged contradictions, the relationship between Jesus and Paul, supposed Pauline forgeries, other gospels, miracles, and many more. Historical corroborations of details from all parts of the New Testament are also presented throughout. *The Historical Reliability of the New Testament* marshals the latest scholarship in responding to New Testament objections, while remaining accessible to non-specialists.

is christian scientist a cult: Editorial Comments on the Life and Work of Mary Baker Eddy

Christian Science Publishing Society, 1911 A collection of special articles, personal tributes, and editorials dealing with the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy which appeared in the press during the months of Dec. 1910 and Jan. 1911.

is christian scientist a cult: After Doubt A. J. Swoboda, 2021-03-02 Is there a way to walk faithfully through doubt and come out the other side with a deeper love for Jesus, the church, and its tradition? Can we question our faith without losing it? Award-winning author, pastor, and professor A. J. Swoboda has witnessed many young people wrestle with their core Christian beliefs. Too often, what begins as a set of critical and important questions turns to resentment and faith abandonment. Unfortunately, the church has largely ignored its task of serving people along their journey of questioning. The local church must walk alongside those who are deconstructing their faith and show them how to reconstruct it. Drawing on his own experience of deconstruction, Swoboda offers tools to help emerging adults navigate their faith in a hostile landscape. Doubt is a part of our natural spiritual journey, says Swoboda, and deconstruction is a legitimate space to encounter the living God. *After Doubt* offers a hopeful, practical vision of spiritual formation for those in the process of faith deconstruction and those who serve them. Foreword by pastor and author John Mark Comer.

is christian scientist a cult: No and Yes Mary Baker Eddy, 1908

is christian scientist a cult: Magic, Science and Religion and Other Essays Bronislaw Malinowski, 2014-04-10 This vintage book comprises three famous Malinowski essays on the subject of religion. Malinowski is one of the most important and influential anthropologists of all time. He is particularly renowned for his ability to combine the reality of human experience, with the cold calculations of science. An important collection of three of his most famous essays, *Magic, Science and Religion* provides its reader with a series of concepts concerning religion, magic, science, rite and myth. This is undertaken in an attempt to form a definite impression and understanding of the Trobrianders of New Guinea. The chapters of this book include: *Magic, Science and Religion*, *Primitive Man and his Religion*, *Rational Mastery by Man of his Surroundings*, *Faith and Cult*, *The Creative Acts of Religion*, *Providence in Primitive Life*, *Man's Selective Interest in Nature*, etcetera. This book is being republished now in an affordable, modern edition - complete with a specially commissioned new biography of the author.

is christian scientist a cult: The Infinite Way Joel S. Goldsmith, 2011-07-01 2011 Reprint of 1949 Third Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. JOEL S. GOLDSMITH (1892-1964), was an important teacher of practical mysticism, and devoted most of his life to the discovery and teaching of spiritual principles which he founded and called *The Infinite Way*. Goldsmith self-published his most famous work, *The Infinite Way* in 1947 based on letters to patients and students. In this collection of important essays Goldsmith describes the spiritual truth as he gleaned it though over thirty years of study of the major religions and philosophies of all the ages. He assures his readers that inner peace will come as one turns to the spiritual consciousness of life, and an outer calm will follow one's human affairs as a result.

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