

The Cults Exposed

Christian Science:

Introduction: *What are the marks a cult?*

- Authoritarian Leader
- Additional Revelation
- Defective Gospel
- Novelty and Exclusivity
- Loyalty Mechanisms
- Historical Revisionism



1821-1910

I. Mrs. Eddy's Biography – A Lady with Lots of Names

Background

born **Mary Ann Morse Baker** on 7-16-1821 at Bow, New Hampshire; the youngest of six religious family, especially her father, Congregational Church (strongly calvinistic)
poor health (spinal weakness and convulsions) making her a semi-invalid, she experiments with healing (spiritualism, water therapy, and hypnotism)
little formal education, bother Albert (Dartmouth graduate) tutored her

Life

- 1833 - professed "conversion" at age 12, dislikes predestination
- 1843 - marries George Washington **Glover**, a bricklayer, happy marriage of six months
- 1844 - child born, George. Her husband died shortly before.
- 1851 - George sent to his relatives to be raised. He is taken in 1856 to Minnesota not to be seen by her until 1879.
CS - say he was taken against her will.
- 1853 - marries an "amorous dentist," Daniel **Patterson**. He was unfaithful and left her in 1866 because of "fits."
- 1862 - meets and cured "mentally" by Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-1866) through his system called "the Science of Christ." She becomes his student. She then begins to teach his method combined other ideas from a manuscript by Dr. Lieber on the philosophy of Hegel.
- 1866 - Quimby dies and months later she "discovers" through "divine revelation, reason and demonstration" the principles of Christian Science. She denies indebtedness to Quimby. She started a healing ministry charging \$300 per pupil for 12 lessons. Her "graduates" could then set up their own "practices."
CS - She fell on the ice and was healed by reading a Bible story of Jesus' healing. (Mt. 9:1-8) She devotes 3 years to Bible study, writing and healing.
- 1873 - "compelled" to divorce Patterson who had deserted her in 1866.
- 1875 - First edition of *Science and Health*. Although dictated "by God" it required extensive grammatical correction by James Henry Wiggin (a retired Unitarian minister and "literary adviser" to her). This edition is now suppressed. *S&H* contains 33 pages verbatim from Dr. Lieber's manuscript as well as many of Quimby's concepts.

- 1877 - marries Asa Gilbert **Eddy** at age 56. Mr. Eddy was first student to call himself a "Christian Science Practitioner." He became her helper.
- 1879 - with eight others she forms the Church of Christ, Scientist in Charlestown Massachusetts to "commemorate the word and work of our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing."
- 1881 - Mrs. Eddy ordained as pastor of the church, charters Massachusetts Metaphysical College.
- 1882 - Asa Eddy "passes on" due to "mental arsenic" administered by her enemies.
- 1883 - *Key to the Scriptures* added to *Science and Health*.
- 1892 - expels Augusta Stetson (head of the NY church) and Josephine Woodbury her disciple, who claimed to have a virgin born son whom she named the Prince of Peace. The boy later tries to attend church and was bodily tossed out.
- 1892 - she reorganizes the church now called First Church of Christ, Scientist (aka the "Mother Church") in Boston.
- 1894 - ordains *Bible* and *S&H* as pastor of her church.
- 1908 - first edition of *Christian Science Monitor* a daily devoted to news that is good.
- 1910 - Mrs. Mary Baker-Glover-Patterson Eddy assumes room temperature due to heart disease or "mental murder."

"God is ALL, God is life, and therefore Sickness and Death are non-existent."
 – Mary Baker Eddy

II. Mrs. Eddy's Church – *Insuring Future Conformity*

Board of Directors - originally appointed by MBE and were self perpetuating thereafter. They elect all officers and appoint Readers and Lecturers.

Church Manual - no changes are permitted without approval of the Leader (MBE). After her death it became non amendable.

Preaching - originally MBE did the preaching, but in response to Augusta Stetson the *Bible* and *S&H* were ordained as the pastors. On Sundays there is no preaching, rather a Reader reads a standard lesson to be used in all CS churches.

Prayer - in services only silent prayer an repetition of the Lord's prayer are permitted thus insuring no "errant" content will be injected. Wednesday night meetings do allow testimonies of healing through CS principles, but these are screened.

Reading Rooms - CS prohibits patronizing of bookstores that sell "obnoxious books" and have established CS Reading Rooms where approved books can be read, borrowed or purchased.

Practitioners - rather than pastors, CS has practitioners who teach an implement the healing techniques. The number of practitioners is on the decline as is the church.

Adherents - CS forbids numbering their members for publication. Most are found in the US with England a distant second and West Germany and Canada further behind. Many CS followers are elderly, well educated women. CS holds MBE out to the women's movement as a pioneer of feminism.

III. Mrs Eddy's Views – *Grape Nuts! ...Neither Grapes or Nuts*

Scripture

"The material record of the Bible, is no more important to our well-being than the history of Europe and America. [MBE, Miscellaneous Writings, 170:19-21]

"In the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love and named my discovery Christian Science. God has been graciously preparing me during many years for the reception of this final revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental healing." [S&H, 107:1-6]

God

"The great I Am; the all-knowing; all-seeing; all acting; all-wise; all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul: Spirit." [S&H, 587:5-8]

"Divine Principle, Life Truth, Love, Soul, Spirit, Mind." [S&H, 115:13-14]

Jesus Christ

"Christ is the ideal truth that comes to heal sickness and sin through Christian Science, and attributes all power to God. Jesus is the name of the man who, more than all other men, has presented Christ, the true idea of God... Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea; hence the duality of Jesus the Christ." [S&H, 473:9-16]

"The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon 'the accursed tree' than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business." [S&H, 25:6-8]

Sin, Death and Evil

"Here also is found the path of the basal statement, the cardinal point in Christian Science, that matter and evil (including all in harmony, sin, disease, death) are unreal." [HBE, Miscellaneous Writings, 27:9-12]

"...evil is but an illusion, and it has no real basis. Evil is a false belief, God is not its author." [S&H, 480:23-24]

"The follower of Mrs. Eddy who appears to be ill is exhorted never to say 'I am sick.' This is tantamount to saying that God is sick. He is to remind himself that he reflects God. 'God is not sick. Therefore I am not sick.' The practitioner emphasizes, 'Man is the idea of God. The real you is that spiritual man. Know the truth! Know the truth! The truth will make you free.' Free, that is, from the illusion of sin, sickness, and death." [Irvine Robertson, *What the Cults Believe*, p. 175]

NB: The best treatment of Christian Science teaching is: Anthony A. Hoekema, *The Four Major Cults* (Eerdmans, 1974), pp. 171-221.

IV. Mrs. Eddy's Kindred Spirits – *Quimby's Legacy*

Christian Science's Father: Phineas Parkhurst Quimby

Quimby and Franz Mesmer

Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815)

- student of medicine, posits theory of "animal magnetism"
- magnetizes (mesmerizes) patients via seances to cure them
- French commission declares him a fraud, yet students increase

Phineas Quimby (?? - 1866)

- American student of Mesmer and healer in Portland, ME
- focus on positive thought rather than hypnosis to cure
- physical illness is real, yet caused by our beliefs

Quimby and Mrs. Eddy

1862 - MBE visits Quimby seeking a cure, takes notes from unpublished mss.

1866 - Quimby dies, MBE discovers her "principle"

1921 - Horation Dresser publishes Quimby's manuscript saying:

"...as far as thought is concerned, Science and Health is practically all Quimby."

Christian Science's Sister

Unity (Charles and Myrtle Fillmore)

1860 - Charles has skating accident (mistrust of medicine)

1873 - marries Myrtle Page, self describes as "decidedly eclectic in my theology"

1886 - lecture from EB Week "heals" Myrtle's tuberculosis, starts investigation of mind sciences

1889 - publishes "Modern Thought" later "Christian Scientist Truth"

1891 - Unity School of Christianity founded [positive focus]

Prosperity (1935)

The Lord is my banker, my credit is good.

He maketh me he down in the consciousness of omnipresent abundance;

He giveth me the key to His strongbox.

He restoreth my faith in His riches; He guides me in the paths of prosperity for His name's sake.

Yea though I walk in the very shadow of debt,

I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me:

Thy silver and Thy Gold, they secure me.

Thou preparest a way for me in the presence of the collector;

Thou fillest my wallet with plenty; my measure runneth over.

Surely goodness and plenty will follow me all of the days of my life;

And I shall do business in the name of the Lord forever.

Christian Scientists' Cousins

Positive Thinking (Peale, *et al.*)

Norman Vincent Peale, "*The Power of Positive Thinking*"

Dale Carnegie, "*How to Win Friends and Influence People*"

Napoleon Hill, "*Think and Grow Rich*"

Maxwell Maltz, "*Psycho-Cybernetics*"

Robert Schuller, "*Possibility Thinking*"

Prosperity Theology (Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, *et al.*)

Kenneth Hagin's Claimed Source

Kenneth Hagin (b. 1917 McKinney, TX)

- completely bedfast (age 16 [for 16 months] -- paralysis and delirium)
- claims to have literally gone to hell 3 times, then trusts Christ
- deathbed "revelation" of scripture
[Mark 11:23-24] > > Principle of Faith
- daily confesses his healing for eight months...
- second "revelation" of the text:

Hagin's Healing Revelation

"In this moment, I saw exactly what that verse in Mark 11:24 meant. Until then I was going to wait till I was actually healed. I was looking at my body and testing my heartbeat to see if I had been healed. But I saw the verse says that you have to believe when you pray. The having comes after the believing. I had been reversing it. I was trying to have first and then believe.... 'I see what I've got to do, Lord. I've got to believe that my paralysis is gone while I'm still lying here on this bed, and while my heart is not beating right. I've got to believe that my paralysis is gone while I'm still lying here flat on my back helpless.'"

after ten minutes of such confession, the Holy Spirit spoke to him: "You believe that you are healed. If you are healed, then you should be up and out of that bed."

Hagin's Teaching Anointing (1943)

"I'd been lying down. I walked across the parsonage living room and into the kitchen for a drink of water. As I was coming back across the living room, right in the middle of the room, something dropped down on me and inside me like a coin drops in a pay phone. I stopped dead still. I knew what it was. It was a teaching gift. The anointing to teach dropped inside me. I said, 'now I can teach.'"
NOTE: teaching is now via "revelational knowledge"

Kenneth Hagin's Real Source

CW Emerson

- universalist pastor in Vermont (1866-71)
- becomes law student and unitarian pastor in Boston (1877)
- lecturer and leader at Monroe School of Oratory (1879)
[later Emerson School of Oratory]
- EW Kenyon enrolls at Emerson (1892)
- Emerson becomes a Christian Scientist (1903)

EW Kenyon

- 1886- Converted, preaches first sermon (Methodist)
- 1892- Moves to Boston (hotbed of religious liberalism)
Attends Unitarian Church
Enrolls and studies at Emerson Oratorio
- 1900- Begins Bethel Bible Institute
- 1907- Urban evangelist (Chicago & west coast)

- 1923- Leaves Institute--students down to 40
- 1926- Pastor of independent Baptist church Pasadena
- 1931- Begins church in Seattle
Radio pioneer: Kenyon Church of the Air
- 1948- Dies age 80. Daughter continues the work
Kenyon Gospel Publishing Society

Did Hagin Plagarize Kenyon?

Hagin says NO

"Mr. Kenyon went home to be with the Lord in 1948. It was 1950 before I was introduced to his books. A brother in the Lord asked me, "Did you ever read after Dr. Kenyon?" I said, "I've never heard of him." He gave me some of Kenyon's books. And he did preach faith and healing like I do. " [Hagin, The Name of Jesus (1981), preface.]

Evidence says YES

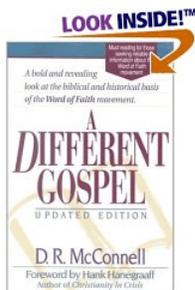
- Side by side comparison (see attached sheet)

- D.R. McConnell's Conclusion

'Whereas Hagin appears to have copied only occasionally from sources other than Kenyon, he has plagiarized Kenyon both repeatedly and extensively. Actually, it would not be overstated to say that the very doctrines that have made Kenneth Hagin and the Faith movement such a distinctive and powerful force within the independent charismatic movement are all plagiarized from E.W. Kenyon.,, [McConnell, A Different Gospel, p. 7]

- Kenyon's Daughter's Conclusion

"His [Kenyon's] first book was printed in 1916, and he had the revelation years before that. These that are coming along now that have been in the ministry for just a few years and claiming that this is something that they are just starting, it makes you laugh a little bit. It is very difficult for some people to be big enough to give credit to somebody else." [Interview with D.R. McConnell, 1982.]



NB: D.R. McConnell. *A Different Gospel : A Historical and Biblical Analysis of the Modern Faith Movement*, 1988.

Conclusion: *Reaching Christian Scientists*

Stuart and McDowell recommend:

- [1] Ask questions drawing out their views, then compare these to the Bible.
- [2] Challenge them to begin reading the Gospel of John and meet with them to ask what they have learned.