

Defending Your Faith – Knowing What You Believe 1 Pet 3:15 **CHRISTIANITY VS CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

	BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
KEY PERSON OR FOUNDER DATE, LOCATION	Jesus Christ. Founded about A.D. 30-33, in the Judean Province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire	Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910). Founded 1875 in Massachusetts. Current headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.
KEY WRITINGS	The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament)	Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures; Miscellaneous Writings; Manuel of the Mother Church; and other books by Mrs. Eddy. The Bible (not as reliable). Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel, and other writings.
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 of nothing and of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect	God is an impersonal Principal of life, truth, love, intelligence, and spirit. God is all that truly exists. All matter is just an illusion.
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 a full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next forty 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.	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.
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 the Son, Jesus Christ.	Holy Spirit is defined as a teaching of Christian Science. Impersonal power.
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 heart 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.	Humanity is already eternally saved. Sin, evil, sickness, and death are not real.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?	Believers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final judgement. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost 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.	Death is not real. Heaven and hell are states of mind. The way to reach heaven is by attaining harmony (oneness with God).
OTHER 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.	Members use Christian Science practitioners instead of doctors. Healing comes from realizing one can not be sick or hurt and that the body can not be ill, suffer pain, or die (matter is an illusion). Attracts followers by claims of miraculous healing.