

does christian science believe in jesus

does christian science believe in jesus is a question that delves into the core beliefs and doctrines of Christian Science, a religious movement founded by Mary Baker Eddy in the late 19th century. At the heart of Christian Science is a unique interpretation of Jesus Christ's life and teachings, which distinguishes it from traditional Christianity. This article will explore the beliefs of Christian Scientists regarding Jesus, including their understanding of his nature, role, and significance in salvation and healing. We will also examine the foundational principles of Christian Science, the impact of Mary Baker Eddy's writings, and how Christian Science practices reflect their beliefs about Jesus.

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- The Nature of Jesus in Christian Science
- Jesus and the Concept of Salvation
- Mary Baker Eddy's Contributions
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Understanding Christian Science

Christian Science emerged as a religious movement that emphasizes spiritual healing and the study of the Scriptures. Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1866, it is rooted in the belief that reality is spiritual rather than material. Christian Scientists hold that the divine, which they often refer to as God, is wholly good and that understanding God's nature leads to healing and salvation. This understanding also shapes their view of Jesus Christ.

Central to Christian Science is the idea that human experiences are reflections of spiritual truths. As such, followers engage in a practice that blends prayer, study of the Bible, and Eddy's writings to gain a deeper spiritual understanding. This approach influences how they perceive Jesus and his teachings, focusing on the spiritual rather than the physical aspects of his life.

The Nature of Jesus in Christian Science

In Christian Science, Jesus is viewed as the human embodiment of divine Truth and Love. Christian Scientists believe that Jesus demonstrated the connection between God and humanity and exemplified the divine qualities that all individuals can aspire to. However, their interpretation diverges from traditional Christian views, particularly regarding the nature of Jesus as the Christ.

Distinctive Beliefs About Jesus

Christian Scientists hold several distinctive beliefs about Jesus, which include:

- **Jesus as the Way-shower:** Rather than being seen solely as the Savior, Jesus is viewed as a Way-shower who reveals the spiritual truths of existence.
- **The Christ Concept:** In Christian Science, 'Christ' is understood as a divine idea, separate from Jesus as a historical figure. This concept encompasses the divine nature of God and is accessible to all.
- **Jesus' Healing Works:** Christian Scientists emphasize Jesus' healing works, viewing them as demonstrations of spiritual power that are available to all through faith and understanding.

This perspective reflects a broader spiritual interpretation of Jesus' mission, focusing on healing rather than atonement in the traditional sense.

Jesus and the Concept of Salvation

Salvation in Christian Science is inherently linked to the understanding of Jesus and his role as the Way-shower. Unlike mainstream Christianity, which often emphasizes salvation through faith in Jesus' sacrifice, Christian Science teaches that salvation is achieved through spiritual understanding and the realization of one's unity with God.

Healing as Salvation

For Christian Scientists, healing—whether physical, mental, or spiritual—is a form of salvation. They believe that through understanding and applying the teachings of Jesus, individuals can experience healing in their lives. This belief manifests in the following ways:

- **Prayer and Study:** Christian Scientists engage in prayer and study to understand the nature of God and their relationship to Him, which they believe leads to healing and salvation.
- **Spiritual Discernment:** The discernment of spiritual truths, as taught by Jesus, is viewed as essential for overcoming sin and illness.
- **Community Support:** The Christian Science community provides support and resources for individuals seeking to understand and practice these healing principles.

This approach emphasizes an active engagement with Jesus' teachings, enabling followers to realize their potential for healing and spiritual growth.

Mary Baker Eddy's Contributions

Mary Baker Eddy played a pivotal role in shaping the beliefs and practices of Christian Science. Her seminal work, "Science and Health with Key to the

Scriptures," outlines her interpretations of biblical texts and the principles of Christian Science, including her views on Jesus.

Key Teachings of Eddy

Eddy's writings emphasize several key teachings regarding Jesus and spirituality:

- **The Nature of God:** Eddy presents God as all-good and all-powerful, which directly influences the understanding of Jesus' role as a reflection of divine qualities.
- **Spiritual Reality:** She teaches that material existence is an illusion, and true reality is spiritual, aligning with Jesus' demonstrations of spiritual truths.
- **Universal Salvation:** Eddy emphasizes that salvation is available to all, not just through Jesus' sacrifice but through understanding and embodying divine principles.

These teachings have significantly shaped the beliefs of Christian Science and how followers view Jesus as a model for spiritual living.

Christian Science Practices and Beliefs

The practices of Christian Science reflect its beliefs about Jesus and spirituality. Central to these practices is the commitment to prayer, healing, and the study of Scriptures. Christian Scientists often turn to prayer as a means of experiencing divine presence and healing.

Practices Reflecting Jesus' Teachings

The following practices are commonly associated with the beliefs of Christian Scientists:

- **Prayer for Healing:** Christian Scientists engage in prayer that seeks to understand God's nature and to realize the healing power of Christ.
- **Reading and Studying the Bible:** The Bible, along with Eddy's writings, is central to their spiritual practice, as it contains the teachings of Jesus and principles for spiritual living.
- **Church Services:** Christian Science services focus on readings from the Bible and Eddy's works, fostering a community environment for shared spiritual growth.

These practices illustrate how deeply ingrained the teachings of Jesus are within the framework of Christian Science, emphasizing healing and spiritual understanding as core components of faith.

Conclusion

In summary, the question of whether Christian Science believes in Jesus is answered through a unique lens that emphasizes spiritual understanding and healing. Christian Scientists regard Jesus as a Way-shower and the embodiment of divine Truth, focusing on his teachings as a guide for spiritual healing and growth. The movement's principles, largely shaped by Mary Baker Eddy, advocate for a spiritual interpretation of reality, in which Jesus' role is pivotal yet distinct from traditional Christian narratives of salvation. Thus, while Christian Science holds Jesus in high regard, it does so through a framework that seeks to elevate his teachings to universal spiritual principles.

Q: Does Christian Science view Jesus as the Son of God?

A: Yes, Christian Science recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, but this title is understood within their broader spiritual interpretation of the Christ concept, which is seen as a divine idea accessible to all individuals.

Q: How do Christian Scientists practice healing in relation to Jesus' teachings?

A: Christian Scientists practice healing through prayer, understanding spiritual truths as demonstrated by Jesus, and applying these principles to their lives, believing that healing is an expression of their relationship with God.

Q: What is the role of Mary Baker Eddy in Christian Science beliefs about Jesus?

A: Mary Baker Eddy is considered the founder of Christian Science and her writings, particularly "Science and Health," provide the foundation for understanding Jesus' teachings and their application in daily life.

Q: Do Christian Scientists celebrate traditional Christian holidays related to Jesus?

A: Christian Scientists may observe Christmas and Easter, but their focus tends to be on the spiritual significance of these events rather than the traditional celebrations associated with them.

Q: How is the concept of sin viewed in Christian Science in relation to Jesus?

A: In Christian Science, sin is understood as a belief in separation from God, and they believe that Jesus' teachings guide individuals to overcome this belief through understanding and spiritual practice.

Q: What do Christian Scientists believe about Jesus' resurrection?

A: Christian Scientists view the resurrection of Jesus as a demonstration of spiritual reality over materiality, emphasizing that it illustrates the eternal nature of life and the power of divine Truth.

Q: Can anyone become a Christian Scientist, and do they have to believe in Jesus?

A: Yes, anyone can become a Christian Scientist. While belief in Jesus is integral to the faith, the emphasis is on understanding his teachings and applying them to experience spiritual healing and growth.

Q: Is prayer in Christian Science different from traditional Christian prayer?

A: Yes, prayer in Christian Science is more focused on understanding and aligning with divine principles rather than seeking intervention from God. It emphasizes spiritual truths and the realization of God's allness.

Q: How do Christian Scientists view the Bible in relation to Jesus?

A: Christian Scientists regard the Bible as a vital text that contains the teachings of Jesus and spiritual truths that guide their understanding and practices. They interpret it through the lens of Eddy's writings.

Q: What is the significance of Jesus' teachings in Christian Science?

A: The teachings of Jesus are central to Christian Science, providing a framework for understanding spiritual reality, healing, and the nature of God, which are essential for the followers' spiritual journey.

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