

Scriptural Answers to False Christianity

PART ONE: Sin

- A. Sin is an illusion – All these bad things that we see are not real but are an illusion. This view is advanced by people in the Christian Science movement.
1. God's word (John 17:17) defines truth or reality.
 2. Romans 3:23 states that all people sin. Jesus is the lone exception according to 1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 4:15).
 3. Sin is defined as lawlessness (1 John 3:4); failing to do right (James 4:17), anything not based on faith (Romans 14:23), or choosing our own way to the exclusion of God's way (Isaiah 53:6).
- B. Man is basically good. This view is advanced by those who are classified by the words "liberal" or "modernist ." This includes many but not all of the mainline churches.
1. Psalm 51:5 – Man is sinful from conception.
 2. Genesis 8:21 – Man's heart or thinking is evil from his youth.
 3. Matthew 7:11 – Jesus stated that people were evil.

PART TWO: The punishment for sin

- A. The soul or spirit of people is unconscious between death and the resurrection. This is the doctrine of soul sleep.
1. Hebrews 9:27 states that after death comes judgment. To deny the consciousness of the soul or spirit denies aspects of God's judgment.
 2. Luke 16:19-31 – Jesus clearly taught that those who had died were conscious – the saved in a blessed condition and the unsaved in torment.
- B. The lost are raised from the dead, thrown into hell and burned up so that they cease to consciously exist.
1. Matthew 25:41, 46 – If the life is everlasting for the saved, then the punishment for the lost in hell is everlasting.
 2. Revelation 14:10-11 – The torments of hell last day and night.
 3. Revelation 19:20; 20:10 – The beast (antichrist) and false prophet were thrown into the lake of fire before Christ's 1000 year reign and are still there in torment after the 1000 year reign of Christ when Satan is thrown in there. It is stated that their torment will endure forever.

Note: These doctrines in A and B are held by Seventh day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Way International. Some neo-evangelicals have also embraced these teachings. Neo-evangelicals believe the Bible is basically accurate regarding spiritual content but believe that it has errors in geography, history and science.

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- C. The lost will not experience hell or will experience it only on a temporary basis. This view is called universalism. They state that since Christ died for all people, all people are saved or will be saved after temporary suffering (Romans 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:20).**

Note: This view is held by many in traditional churches and those in modernist and liberal churches as well as the Unification church. Mormons hold to the idea most people will be saved and experience some degree of heaven but Matthew 7:13-14 and Luke 13:23-24 teach otherwise.

- 1. 2 Corinthians 5:19 and Colossians 1:20 point to the fact that Christ provided reconciliation for everyone but the scripture clearly teaches that this reconciliation or peace must be received by faith (Romans 5:1) and that failure to do so results in God's condemnation and wrath (John 3:18, 36).**
 - 2. Romans 5:18 again points to the fact that Christ's death provided righteousness for everyone, but this righteousness is a gift that must be received (Romans 5:17) by faith in Christ (Romans 4:3-5, 23-24).**
 - 3. Many argue that the terms "eternal" and "everlasting" in our English Bibles should be translated as "a limited period of time." While the Greek word "aion" may be used that way, the context must determine the meaning.**
 - a. Matthew 25:46 – If the punishment that is promised for the lost is not eternal then the life is promised for the saved would not be eternal.**
 - b. The idea of forever is not only found in the New Testament but in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament completed about 180 B.C., the literature written in koine Greek (the language in which the New Testament was written) and the literature in classical Greek.**
 - c. The idea of "eternal" has been the historic view of the church and was the prevailing idea among many of the Jews even prior to the first coming of Jesus.**
- D. If there is no punishment or judgment for sin, there would be nothing for people to be saved from and there would have been no need for Christ to die for us. For this reason Romans 2:16 clearly connects the judgment to come with the gospel.**

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PART THREE: The Doctrine concerning Christ (2 John 1:7-9; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

A. Christ's Person

1. His deity

- a. full or complete – Colossians 2:9
- b. prior to His earthly ministry – John 1:1; Philippians 2:6
- c. during His earthly ministry – John 5:17-18; 10:30-33; 20:28
- d. after His earthly ministry – Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1
- e. Jesus is Jehovah – Deuteronomy 10:17 cp. Revelation 17:14; Isaiah 44:6 cp. Revelation 22:13, 16; Psalm 89:8-9 cp. Matthew 8:26-27; Isaiah 8:14 cp. 1 Peter 2:8
- f. Jesus is Elohim – Hebrews 1:8-12 cp. Psalm 102:25-27; Psalm 90:2 cp. Micah 5:2.

Note: The Mormons deny that Jesus is or existed as Elohim (translated “God”) in the Old Testament and that He always existed as God. The Jehovah’s Witnesses and The Way International deny that Jesus is Jehovah and state that He is a created god who has not always existed. The Unification Church teaches that Jesus was not always God. The Unity Church teaches that God is no more God than any other man. Modernists/liberals deny that Jesus was or is God.

2. His humanity

- a. full or complete – Hebrews 2:17

Note: The Way International holds to the teaching that Jesus was part human but not all human.

- b. other texts – 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 1:7
- c. Jesus was the Christ translated Messiah meaning in both Greek and Hebrew, the anointed one. This means that Jesus was the promised king – Luke 2:11; John 20:31; Acts 2:36; 1 John 2:22.

Note: The Unity Church denies this particular point concerning Jesus’ humanity. The Jehovah’s witnesses state that Jesus was not the Christ until His baptism.

3. His virgin birth – Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:31-37

Note: The Unification Church denies the virgin birth by stating that Zacharias was the father of Jesus through physical union with Mary. Liberals/Modernists believe that it did not happen because they do not believe in the supernatural power of God.

4. His sinlessness – 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5; Hebrews 4:15

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B. Christ's work

1. Christ's death

- a. Christ died as our substitute – 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:9; Isaiah 53:6.

Note: Modernists/Liberals hold to the idea that Jesus was simply an example and not an actual substitute. Jehovah's witnesses state that Jesus was not a substitute for all people or even for the saved but only for Adam. Unity church believes that salvation is provided partly by man's mind.

- b. Christ's death satisfied God's judgment and provided forgiveness of sins – 1 John 2:2; John 1:29.

2. Christ's bodily resurrection – Luke 24:3, 23, 36-43; John 2:19-22; 20:20, 25-27; Acts 2:31-32.

Note: Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was not bodily raised from the dead but that He was raised a spirit being. The Unification church along with Modernists/Liberals believes that Jesus was raised spiritually but not bodily.

3. Christ's bodily and visible ascension - Acts 1:9-11; 2:31-36; Colossians 2:9.

Note: Jehovah's witnesses would say that the disciples saw Jesus ascend as a spirit being. The Unification Church and the Modernist/Liberal group would say that Jesus only ascended spiritually and not bodily.

4. Christ's visible and bodily return – Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 1 John 3:2 cp. Philippians 3:21.

Note: The Unification Church teaches that Jesus will not return visibly but be born as a baby again. The Jehovah's witnesses teach that the second coming of Jesus will not be visible and bodily. They teach that it happened in 1914 when World War I began. Modernists/Liberals do not believe in a visible and bodily return of Jesus.

5. Christ is the only way of salvation – John 14:6; Acts 4:12

Note: The Mormons would teach that others may be saved. They just won't attain the highest level of heaven. Both the Modernist/Liberal group and Unity would teach that there are many paths to God.

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PART THREE: The true gospel vs. false gospels (Galatians 1:8-9)

- A. Salvation is received by faith alone without any law-keeping or any works - Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 3:20, 28; Galatians 2:21; 3:21; John 6:28-29; Romans 11:6). This excludes salvation by rituals as well – Romans 4:9-12.
- B. The nature of saving faith (Philippians 3:4-9).
1. Rejects these false bases.

FALSE BASES	PAUL	CONTEMPORARY
Ritual	Circumcised	Baptism
Being born in the right country	Of the nation of Israel	I was born in America or a Christian nation.
Family	Tribe of Benjamin	My mother was a devout Christian
Race	Hebrew	I am such and such race
Religious background or group	Pharisee	Church denomination
Sincerity	Zeal	If you are just sincere, God will honor that.
Works or morality	As to the righteousness in the law blameless	If you just live a good life, God will take you to heaven.

2. These false bases are rejected for knowing Christ by faith and having the required righteousness credited to us by God rather than a righteousness for which we tried to work – Philippians 3:7-9.

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Note:

GROUP	HOW THEY BELIEVE SALVATION IS RECEIVED
<i>Unity</i>	<i>A positive and confident state of mind in living our life</i>
<i>Unification</i>	<i>Obedying and following Christ</i>
<i>Mormonism</i>	<i>Faith in Christ plus baptism plus good works</i>
<i>Old line Church of Christ</i>	<i>Faith in Christ plus confession plus baptism plus calling on the Lord to save them.</i>
<i>Jehovah's witnesses</i>	<i>Faith in Christ plus faith in baptism plus faithful service</i>
<i>Roman Catholicism</i>	<i>Baptism and belief in Christ</i>

PART FOUR: The Holy Spirit is a person and is God

A. The Holy Spirit is a person meaning that he possesses personality such as ability to think, feelings, will or ability to choose.

1. He has ability to think – 1 Corinthians 2:11
2. He has feelings or emotions – Ephesians 4:30
3. He has a will or the ability to choose – 1 Corinthians 12:11
4. He intercedes or prays for us – Romans 8:26

B. The Holy Spirit is God – 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Acts 5:3-4; Acts 28:5-6 cp. Isaiah 6:8-9.

1. Equal to the other members of the Godhead - Matthew 12:32; 28:19
2. The Holy Spirit is Jehovah – John 7:38-39 cp. Jeremiah 17:13; Hebrews 3:7-11 {vv. 7-8} cp. Psalm 95:6-11 {vv. 6-8}.

Note: The Jehovah's witnesses and The Way believe that the Holy Spirit is the force of God and that He is not a person nor is He God. Mormons believe that the Holy Spirit is not God nor is He a person but that He is the influence of God. Unity and the Modernist/Liberal group see the Holy Spirit as more of an influence or feeling rather than as God Himself.