**DISEASE—REAL OR UNREAL?**

By Ralph E. Wagers

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The standpoint from which health and disease are approached in Christian Science requires a considerable readjustment of thought on the part of those who accept its teachings. The world has become so accustomed to accord reality to everything the senses behold, whether it be good or bad, that to approach disease as an unreality may at first seem to be difficult, if not impossible.

Christian Science accords reality only to that which has Spirit, God, as its source. It teaches that health is a divine quality of being rather than a favorable condition of matter. God cannot be the source of disease, for sweet water and bitter do not come from the same fountain. The sun cannot send forth both light and darkness. Principle cannot support both truth and error. In fact, opposites never mingle. One being real, the other must be unreal.

In the textbook, Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy writes ([p.483](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Because+the+Science+of+Mind+seems+to+bring+into+dishonor+the+ordinary+scientific+schools%2C+which+wrestle+with+material+observations+alone%2C+this+Science+has+met+with+opposition%3B+but+if+any+system+honors+God%2C+it+ought+to+receive+aid%2C+not+opposition%2C+from+all+thinking+persons.+And+Christian+Science+does+honor+God+as+no+other+theory+honors+Him%2C+and+it+does+this+in+the+way+of+His+appointing%2C+by+doing+many+wonderful+works+through+the+divine+name+and+nature.&book=tfccs.main.sh)): "Because the Science of Mind seems to bring into dishonor the ordinary scientific schools, which wrestle with material observations alone, this Science has met with opposition; but if any system honors God, it ought to receive aid, not opposition, from all thinking persons. And Christian Science does honor God as no other theory honors Him, and it does this in the way of His appointing, by doing many wonderful works through the divine name and nature."

In honoring God, Christian Science acknowledges that everything He creates is real. This naturally implies that what God does not create must be unreal. God is the source of all that man is or ever can be, of all that man has or ever can have. Every quality of man's being is derived from God, Spirit. If it is as possible for men to be sick as to be well, it is because God has made them that way. But in summing up spiritual creation, the first chapter of Genesis records that "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

Health, being a quality of Spirit, is an essential element of everything that exists in the spiritual universe. As an element of Soul, health is immortal, incorruptible, eternal, therefore wholly good. There is in reality no bad health. So regardless of how real disease seems to be to material sense, from a scientific standpoint it must be unreal.

Christianity in general recognizes God to be infinite good, the source of all that is really good in man and the universe. Christian Science does not associate anything bad or evil with God. To conceive of God as the source of evil as well as of good would be to take His name in vain.

Mrs. Eddy was prepared of God to discover the divine Science of the Bible. She called her discovery Christian Science because it is not only Christian, compassionate, and helpful but scientific in both premise and conclusion and therefore understandable and demonstrable. She gave her discovery to the world in Science and Health and founded a church through which her discovery was to fulfill its divine mission. A prayerful study of this book, a correct appraisal of its author, and an understanding of the church she founded are an effective preparation for the understanding and utilization of divine Science in relation to health as well as morals and ethics.

On [page 474](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=If+sin%2C+sickness%2C+and+death+are+as+real+as+Life%2C+Truth%2C+and+Love%2C+then+they+must+all+be+from+the+same+source%3B+God+must+be+their+author.+Now+Jesus+came+to+destroy+sin%2C+sickness%2C+and+death%3B+yet+the+Scriptures+aver%2C+%27I+am+not+come+to+destroy%2C+but+to+fulfil.%27+Is+it+possible%2C+then%2C+to+believe+that+the+evils+which+Jesus+lived+to+destroy+are+real+or+the+offspring+of+the+divine+will%3F&book=tfccs.main.sh) of the textbook we read: "If sin, sickness, and death are as real as Life, Truth, and Love, then they must all be from the same source; God must be their author. Now Jesus came to destroy sin, sickness, and death; yet the Scriptures aver, 'I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.' Is it possible, then, to believe that the evils which Jesus lived to destroy are real or the offspring of the divine will?"

One's attitude toward health is the opposite of one's attitude toward disease. He not only seeks to preserve health but to prevent disease or, failing that, to get rid of it. Not only is it more satisfactory to be well, but it is correct scientifically to identify oneself with what is real and refuse to identify oneself with what is unreal.

Jesus spoke of a certain deformed woman as one whom Satan had bound. In Chapter 12 of Revelation, Satan is referred to as that "which deceiveth the whole world," and as "the accuser of our brethren." The mission of Christian Science is to distinguish between what is real and what is unreal. Identifying what is real with God, Science identifies what is unreal, yet appears to be real, with Satan. It approaches disease as deception, as a phase of the Adam-dream, which Christ, the true idea of God, casts out of human consciousness.

After directing his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," the Master declared ([Mark 16](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=And+these+signs+shall+follow+them+that+believe%3B+In+my+name+shall+they+cast+out+devils%3B+they+shall+speak+with+new+tongues%3B+they+shall+take+up+serpents%3B+and+if+they+drink+any+deadly+thing%2C+it+shall+not+hurt+them%3B+they+shall+lay+hands+on+the+sick%2C+and+they+shall+recover.&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj)), "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Because Christian Science is the new tongue, it may seem unfamiliar to many. But as Science is better understood, human thought will be awakened to discriminate between what is real and what is unreal. Christ, Truth, being the antidote to Adam, error, this Science, Christian Science, enables us to cast out of thought every deceptive, unreal presentation, every quality or condition that stands in opposition to good—good morals, good health, good business, good government— and to discern the realities of being, forever untouched by Satan, the deceiver.

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