

# The Discerner

the voice of... **Religion Analysis Service**

A QUARTERLY EXPOSING  
UNBIBLICAL TEACHING & MOVEMENTS

Volume 37, Number 4

October • November • December 2017

Eckankar  
Confucianism  
Hare Krishna  
Freemasons  
*Jehovah's Witnesses*  
Humanism  
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**Exposed!**  
MORMONS  
BAHA' I FAITH  
Buddhism  
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*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth  
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*  
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# **The Discerner**

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## WITH THIS ISSUE

In this issue, we are focusing on the new age cult the Unity School of Christianity founded by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore.

The first article is by our Canadian friend Bary Claud Gaudreault. The second article is by our board member Doug Steiner. You will want to read both of these exposés on this perennial new age deception wrapped up in the guise of Christian terminology to get a full understanding of the threat this group poses to the unaware.

Walter Martin, the great Cult expert and author of the classic book *Kingdom of the Cults* stated in chapter two of that work, *Scaling the Language Barrier*:

The student of cultism, then, must be prepared to scale the language barrier of terminology . . . A concrete example of redefinition of terms can be illustrated in the case of almost any of the Gnostic cult systems which emphasize healing, and hold in common a pantheistic concept of God (example: Christian Science, New Thought, Unity . . . If the reader consults the *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, published by the **Unity School of Christianity**, he will see the masterpiece of redefinition for himself. For in this particular volume, **Unity** has redefined exhaustively many of the cardinal terms of Biblical theology . . . One thing, however, will emerge very clearly from this study, and that is the fact that Unity may use the terminology of the Bible, but by no stretch of the imagination can the redefinition be equated with the thing [biblical truth] itself (Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, Bethany House, 1985, pp. 18, 20–21).

The danger, then, is that people are easily fooled by representatives of Unity whom seem to use all the biblical terms yet are unaware that all of these terms have been redefined to say the very opposite of what they meant in the Bible. The Unity School of Christianity is anything but Christian, it is rather a satanic deception espousing the doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Our articles in this issue will be most helpful in shining the light of truth on this deception.

Before our feature articles on the Unity cult, we have our News and Views section with news items and commentary from recent headlines that our relevant to our Discerning readers!

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### **Destruction of Archaeology**

One of my favorite professors in college was Dr. Clyde Billington, professor of History at the University of Northwestern-St.Paul. One of the things that he sought to instill in his students was to understand the nature of the archaeological record in the Middle East. Particularly, that the discipline is in its infancy, as the greater amount of discoveries lie yet undiscovered in the ground or in some storage area of a museum waiting to be investigated. In light of this, historians and bible scholars are wise to be cautious when making judgments about the reliability of the Bible in matters of history and geography. As in the past, new discoveries will come to light to vindicate God's Word against the presumptuous attacks of liberal critics.

Yet it is a very real concern that enemies of the Judeo-Christian tradition would try to suppress new discoveries that do vindicate the biblical record. As an example, is the recent story by the Associated Press, " *Hamas Levels Ancient Treasures to Make Room for Construction: Politics Finally persevere Over Archaeological Work,*" Fares Akram, Star Tribune, October 8, 2017 A-8.

The article reports that "Gaza's Hamas rulers have systematically destroyed" a "4500-year-old Bronze Age Settlement" in Gaza, "allowing the flattening of this hill on the southern tip of Gaza City to make way for construction projects and later military bases." Akram stated "Unlike more extreme Islamic groups, Hamas has not deliberately destroyed antiquities for ideological reasons." Let not the confession that "more extreme Islamic groups" do deliberately destroy antiquities.

However, "Hamas officials say they have no choice, making archaeology a low priority." The destruction at the site was described as "disastrous for the archaeology and cultural heritage in Palestine."

## **Saint Nicholas**

There is no question that our culture has thoroughly secularized the revered early Christian bishop of Myra Saint Nicholas into the mythical character of Santa Claus. But during the Christmas season, let us take advantage of the fact that there was indeed a saintly Christian Nicholas of Myra who was a confessor, having suffered persecution during the Roman persecution of the Church and who also participated in the important Council of Nicea in 325 that bore witness to the orthodox teaching that our Lord Jesus was indeed Divine.

Recently his bones were found in the 11th century Church of St. Nicholas in Demre, Southern Turkey (*Could These Be Bones of Jolly St. Nick?*, Cleve R. Wootson Jr, Washington Post, Star Tribune, October 15, 2017). Wootson reported, “Archaeologists in Southern Turkey say they have discovered the tomb of the original Santa Claus, also known as St. Nicholas, beneath his namesake church near the Mediterranean Sea.”

Demre is the modern day name of Myra, the town from which Nicholas served as Bishop. This all merely further confirms the historical reality of the godly Saint Nicholas, the servant of Jesus Christ.

## FEEDBACK FROM DISCERNING READERS

Donna Vincent of Northern Bible Church in Minnesota commented that “Bary Claud Gaudreal's timely article on "*20 Reasons Why I cannot be a Roman Catholic*" has been very helpful with “a new woman” in their church that joins them for a Bible study.

Kenn Sidorewich of Florida also said, “As an ex- Catholic – saved by grace over 35 years ago – really blessed by the '20 Biblical Reasons . . . article!”

We are pleased that that Bary’s article on Roman Catholicism was helpful to our readers. As always, we appreciate your feedback! We hope you enjoy this issue!

May you and yours enjoy a wonder Christmas season!

God bless,

*Steve Lagoon*

President, Religion Analysis Service

# THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE COMPARED TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY

by Bary Claud Gaudrealt

## Introduction

All scriptural quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible. All quotations expressing the teachings of the Unity School of Christianity are taken from Charles Fillmore's Book: "The Revealing Word," Lee's Summit, Mo. 1959. The object of this document is to see if the teachings of Unity School of Christianity are in accord with God's Word, the Bible. Let us therefore be like the Bereans who checked out the Apostle Paul's teachings to see if his doctrines were sound by searching "the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Act 17:11).

## I. SCRIPTURES, THE GOD BREATHED WRITTEN WORD OF GOD, OR, "THE REAL SCRIPTURES ARE THE BOOK OF LIFE WITHIN OUR OWN CONCIIOUSNESS?"

**A. THE BIBLE:** The Bible clearly states that it is the inspired Word of God alone, known by Bible students as "Special Revelation." The Bible alone is God's guiding word for all believers regarding doctrine, reproof and correction and instruction in righteousness. The Bible states therefore that, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). The Bible also states that God used human vessels to write His Word down in print by the influence of the Holy Spirit. ". . . knowing this first , that no prophesy of Scripture is of any private interpretation for prophesy never came by the will of man, but Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet 1:20-21).

**B. UNITY:** "Although the Scriptures are almost universally considered to be the printed Bible only, the real Scriptures are the book of life within our own consciousness. The written word, however, is meant as a clue to a more vital part of the Scriptures than appears, since there is both a literal and a spiritual significance to them." p.

## **II. GOD, A TRINITY OF THREE PERSONS YET ONE GOD IN ESSENCE OR A “METAPHYSICAL” CONCEPT OF “MIND, IDEA, AND EXPRESSION.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** states that God has a Triune Nature: “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the Lord is one (Deut 6:4),” Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were open to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:16–17). “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all Amen” (2 Cor 13:14).

**B. UNITY:** “The religious terms for the trinity are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The metaphysical terms are mind, idea, and expression.” p. 199.

## **III. JESUS. IS HE THE SECOND PERSON IN THE TRIUNE GODHEAD WHO TOOK UNTO HIMSELF HUMAN NATURE INCLUDING A BODY OF FLESH TO DIE UPON THE CROSS TO SAVE SINNERS AND DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL, OR IS HE “THE I AM IN MAN, THE SELF, THE DIRECTIVE POWER, RAISED TO DIVINE UNDERSTANDING AND POWER—THE I AM IDENTITY.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** states that Christ is the second person in the Triune Godhead, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19), having taken on flesh (thereby being both God and Man. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14). “Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And having taken it out of the way, having nailed to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Col 2:14–15).

**B. UNITY:** “Jesus: the Man of Nazareth, son of Mary; the Saviour of mankind according to present-day Christian belief. Metaphysically He is the I AM in man, the self, the directive power, raised to divine understanding and power—the I AM identity.” p. 110



#### **IV. SAVIOR:**

**A. THE BIBLE:** The source of man's forgiveness of sin is in Christ alone. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (Jn 14:6); "Nor is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Act 4:12).

**B. UNITY:** "Savior: The Christ Mind is our Saviour through the Christ Mind we find salvation from poverty, sickness, sin, and death." p. 173.

#### **V. THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE THIRD PERSON IN THE TRIUNE GODHEAD, HAVING THEREFORE, AN INTELLECT, EMOTION AND A WILL AS WELL AS THE ATTRIBUTES THAT BOTH THE FATHER AND SON HAVE, OR IS HE A "MOVING FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE; ... PRINCIPLE OF LIFE; CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE."**

**A. THE BIBLE** States that the Holy Spirit is a person having an intellect, "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of Knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isa 11:2), and emotion, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph 4:30). "But one and the same Spirit works all things, distributing to each one as He wills" (1 Cor 12:11). The Holy Spirit also has the attributes of eternality "how much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb 9:14). Always present, "Where can I flee from Your Spirit Or where can I flee Your presence" (Ps 139:7), all knowing, "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God" (1 Cor 2:10), and all powerful, "You send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth" (Ps 104:30).

**B. UNITY:** "Spirit-God as a moving force in the universe; Principle as breath of life in all creation; the principle of life; creative intelligence and life." p. 183.

## **VI. MAN, MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (MARRED BY SIN), POSSESSING A BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT OR “AN IDEA IN DIVINE MIND; THE EPITOME OF BEING.”**

**A. THE BIBLE.** Man is created in the image and likeness of God. “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’ (Gen 1:26). Man consists of body, soul, and spirit, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess 5:23), For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12).

**B. UNITY:** “man, an idea in Divine Mind; the epitome of being. The apex of God’s creation, created in His image and likeness. . . . Ideal man is the perfect man, the Christ, the offspring of Divine Mind.” p. 126.

## **VII. GOD –MAN, CHRIST OR MAN?**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Nowhere in the Scriptures are men said to be “God-Men.” Only Christ is the “God-Man.” “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God” (Jn 1:1,14); “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col 2:9), “who being in the form of God, did not consider robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:6–7).”

**B. UNITY:** “God man—The man that God created in His image and likeness, and present within all men.” p. 86.

## **VIII. WHO IS THE “I AM”, CHRIST OR MAN?**

**A. THE BIBLE:** The “I AM” in Scripture is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. “Therefore I say to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I Am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn 8:24). “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM’” (Jn 8:58).

**B. UNITY:** “I AM—Spiritual identity; the real or Christ Mind, of each individual. The I AM Being. God is I AM, and man is His offspring, is also I AM. I AM is the indwelling Lord of life, love, wisdom, and all the ideas eternally in Divine Mind.”

**IX. SIN: WILLFULL ACTS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF GOD, STEMMING FROM MAN’S SINFUL NATURE OR IS SIN COMMITTING AN ERROR WHICH IS “REDEEMED BY MENTAL PROCESS.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Man has a sinful nature as a consequence of rebellion in the Garden of Eden and all are individually guilty of sin. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness” (1 Jn 3:4). “For the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 6:23). Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”(Rom 5:12).

**B. UNITY:** “sin—(error) is first in mind and is redeemed by mental process, or by going into silence. Error is brought into the light of the Spirit and then transformed into a construction force.” pp. 179–180.

**X. GOSPEL: THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD FOR ALL BELIEVERS OR: THE MEANS BY WHICH “EVERY MAN CAN BECOME GOD INCARNATE.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received and which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believe in vain. For I delivered to you first of that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor 15:1–4).

**B. UNITY:** “The gospel of Jesus Christ is that every man can become God incarnate. It is not alone a gospel of right living, but also shows us the way into dominion and power equal to and surpassing that of Jesus of Nazareth.” p. 88

**XI. ATONEMENT: THE WORK OF THE SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS WASHING THE BELIEVER FROM HIS SINS, “OR THE UNITING OF OUR CONCIOUSNESS WITH THE HIGHER CONCIOUSNESS.”**

**A. THE BIBLE** states that the atonement is in and through the shed blood of Christ which He shed upon the cross for the sins of the world (specifically for those who repent and believe in Christ’s work on the cross). “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers , to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Act

20:28); “And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission” (Heb 9:22); “knowing that you are not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18–19).

**B. UNITY:** “Atonement: Reconciliation between God and man through Christ; the uniting of our consciousness with the higher consciousness. Jesus became the way by which all who accept Him may “pass over” to the higher consciousness. We have atonement through Him. p. 18

## **XII. REDEMPTION: ARE WE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST OR ARE WE REDEEMED FROM DESTRUCTION BY ATTAINING SPIRITUAL SUBCONSCIOUSNESS ON EARTH?**

**A. THE BIBLE:** The Bible states that redemption is the act by which the repentant sinner is bought back from a fallen nature by the blood of Christ. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, for the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph 1:7). “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and to purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Tit 2:14).

**B. UNITY:** Redemption—The process by which the life substance of man’s lesser self are brought to conform to standards of his spiritual life. The body is redeemed from destruction by attaining spiritual subconsciousness on earth. p. 165

## **XIII. REGENERATION: THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVERS LIFE MAKING HIM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST’S IMAGE, OR “THE UNIFICATION OF SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY IN SPIRITUAL ONENESS.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor 5:17). “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He has saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Tit 3:5).

**B. UNITY:** Change in which abundant spiritual life is incorporated into the body. The transformation takes place through bringing all the forces of mind and body to the support of the Christ ideal. The unification of spirit, soul, and body in spiritual oneness. p. 165

#### **XIV. IS THE CHURCH A CALLED OUT ASSEMBLY TO WORSHIP GOD, OR “THOUGHT CENTERS?”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** The church is both a called out assembly of all believers, being both localized and universal. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock will I build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”(Matt 16:18), having been purchased by the blood of Christ, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers of the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

**B. UNITY:** “The word church is derived from a Greek word meaning: the “Lord’s house,” the individual’s consciousness is his “Lord’s house.” And assembled within it are groups or aggregations of ideas (thought centers). The spiritualized will carry to the different “churches” (thought centers) the word of Truth and builds it up into knowledge of their perfections and divinity by training them in spiritual thinking.” p. 37

#### **XV. HEAVEN: A REAL LITERAL PLACE FOR ALL BELIEVERS OR ACHIEVING CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS?**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Heaven is a literal, eternal place for all believers in Christ who will commune in the Spirit being in the presence of God. “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan 12:1); “And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matt 25:46); “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil 3:20).

**B. UNITY:** “Heaven the Christ consciousness; the realm of Divine Mind; a state of consciousness in harmony with the thoughts of God. Heaven is everywhere present. It is the orderly, lawful adjustment of God’s kingdom in man’s mind, body, and affairs.” p. 94

#### **XVI. HELL: CONSCIOUS ETERNAL SUFFERING FOR THE NON BELIEVER OR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE?**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Hell is a literal, eternal, place of torment were all unbelievers will go at death, “And these [the non-believers] will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matt 25:46), “these [the non-believers] shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the

glory of His power” (2 Thess 1:8–9). “So it was when the beggar died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torment in Hades he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham a far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then He cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame’” (Lk 16:22–24).

**B. UNITY:** “HELL—Metaphysically, hell presents a corrective state of mind. When error has reached its limit, the retroactive law asserts itself, and judgment, being part of the law, brings penalty, called hell, upon the transgressor. This penalty is not punishment, but discipline. If the transgressor is repentant and obedient, he is forgiven.” p. 95

## **XVII. RESURRECTION: PHYSICALLY, BODILY, OR “THE RESTORATION OF MIND AND BODY.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** The resurrection is when a person is literally physically bodily raised from the dead. “There will be a resurrection of both the righteous unto eternal life and the unbeliever unto eternal damnation. “For I know that my redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God” (Job 19:25–26). “And many of those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt (Dan 12:2), “And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power” (1 Cor 6:14).

**B. UNITY:** “The restoration of mind and body to their original, undying state. This is accomplished by the realization that God created man with a power like that which He Himself possesses. When man realizes this, his mind and body automatically become immortal.” p. 169

## **XVIII. SABBATH REST**

**A. THE BIBLE:** “Therefore since a promise remains of entering His rest let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. ... For he who has entered His rest also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience (Heb 4:1–2, 10–11). “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will

find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt 11:28–30).

**B. UNITY:** “The true Sabbath is that state of spiritual attainment where man ceases from all personal effort and all belief in his own works, and rests in the consciences that “the Father abideth in me doeth his works.” p. 172

### **XIX. ANGELS: REAL CREATED SPIRIT BEINGS OR, “THE PROJECTION INTO CONCIOUSNESS OF A SPIRITUAL IDEA.”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Angels are created as spirit beings sent to do specific tasks that God has called them to do. “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (Ps 104:4). They constantly give God praise.

In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” (Isa 6:1–2).

And the four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they did not rest day or night, saying, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come” (Rev 4:8).

They relay messages:

Now the birth of Jesus was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But well he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 1:18–20).

They minister to those who will inherit salvation. “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation” (Heb 1:14). They bring the souls of believers into the

presence of God at the time of death. “So it was that the beggar died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s bosom” (Lk 16:22).

**B. UNITY:** A messenger of God; the projection into consciousness of a spiritual idea direct from the Fountain head, Jehovah. p. 13

## **XX. SATAN: REAL BEING, A FALLEN ANGEL, OR JUST “A SENSATION SUGGESTING INDULGENCE IN PLEASURES?”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Satan was a creation of God, being a cherub (angel), who fell into sin as a result of pride.

You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect beauty. You were in the Garden of Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The Sardis, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub; I established you; . . . You were perfect in your wisdom from the day you were created till iniquity was found in you (Ezek 28:15).

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High (Isa 14:12–15).

**B. UNITY:** “The Adversary, the great universal negative whose power is derived from the unlawful expression of man’s own being. The serpent as “Satan” is a sensation suggesting indulgence in pleasures beyond the law fixed by creative Mind.” p. 173.

## **XXI. OVERCOMING THE DEVIL, BY REBUKING HIM AS A LITERAL FALLEN SPIRIT BEING OR DENYING HIS EXISTENCE?”**

**A. THE BIBLE:** Therefore submit yourself to God. Resist the devil and he will flee” (James 4:7). “Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (Pet 8–9).



**B. UNITY:** “Devil, how to overcome the: The devil is overcome by denying his existence and by affirming universal Christ love for God and all men.” p. 54.

## **XXII. DEMONS REAL OR “ERRORONEUS STATES OF MIND.”**

**A.THE BIBLE:** Demons are those angels that fell with Satan into sin. “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev 12:9).

**B. UNITY:** “demon—This word is used in Matt 8:28–34, when the demons asked to be sent into the swine. The demons of the parable represent erroneous states of mind that have been quickened by Truth and are repentant.” pp. 51–52.

## **CONCLUSION:**

When compared to God’s inspired, written Word, we can come to no other conclusion than that the teachings of Unity School of Christianity are not Christianity at all. Its teachings do not bring about “Unity” in any sense of the “Word” but rather “spiritual confusion.” Let us therefore “Test all things; holding fast to what is good (1 Thess 5:21).

# THE FALSE CULTIC TEACHING OF UNITY: THAT MAN CAN EVOLVE TOWARDS DIVINITY

by Douglas Steiner

## Introduction

In today's postmodern world with all of its pluralistic societies and miscommunication abilities, many people still acknowledge some form or concept of an All-Sovereign Creator God. In fact, from the very beginning of man's history and as first demonstrated in the Garden of Eden, mankind has wanted to "be like God" (Genesis 3:5–6). But how to know God, worship Him, and be like Him as Scripture teaches—or for some, *how to become Him* and thus view themselves as being equal to or one with God as Scripture does not teach—has become their idolatrous pursuit.

Through the centuries, countless false teachings and religions have tried to satisfy this innate personal yearning and need for truth about God. Yet the truth about God has for millennia existed in and by His Word (John 1:1) as expressed in an inerrant, infallible, and inspired Bible.<sup>1</sup>

Holy Scripture states "we are created in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27). Does that mean we can achieve the same consciousness of God Himself? Or that we can move beyond being a creature and through self-effort eventually become one with our Creator? How does one interpret God's Word to arrive at such conclusions? This article will examine the false teachings and doctrines of a cult called *Unity* and contrast them with the truth of God's Word.<sup>2</sup>

## What is *Unity*?

In examining *Unity*, the first obstacle to overcome is the redundant use of the word 'unity' by different groups.<sup>3</sup> Originally influenced by

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1 2 Timothy 3:16–17 states (NASB), "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Peter 1:20–21 affirms, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

2 "What is the role of the Bible in Unity? *The Bible is Unity's basic textbook*. Scripture comes alive when it is understood as a clear and helpful guide for today's experiences." [www.unity.org/faq-page#t171n270](http://www.unity.org/faq-page#t171n270), accessed 9-29-2017 (italics added).

3 Unity, Unitarians, and Unitarian Universalists are *not affiliated* with each other. *Unity is a distinct group with many distinct teachings*. Further, *Unity* does not desire to be 'lumped together' with Unitarians (as confirmed by my visit to a local *Unity* church, where members acknowledged their appreciation that I understood they were not Unitarians or Unitarian Universalists). One example of their differences is that *Unity* emphasizes spiritual healing while Unitarians emphasize social and political action.

Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science cult as well as the writings of P.P. Quimby, Emma Hopkins, and 19th century "New Thought" ideology, the founders of *Unity*—Charles and Myrtle Fillmore<sup>4</sup>—desired that their own personal experiences of physical healing through metaphysical practices would be known and practiced by others.<sup>5</sup>

By ultimately rejecting the exclusivist doctrine of Christian Science with an inclusive study of several world religions, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore began a movement that today remains true to its original proclamation: *All religions have revealed truths, and all religious teachings are respectable. Why? Because we all are on a spiritual journey together, to discover how we can become one with God.*<sup>6</sup>

In 1899, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore publicly established a nondenominational and extremely tolerant religious teaching they called *Unity*, with the name coming from "a voice Charles Fillmore heard" (Tucker, 182). The Fillmores never intended *Unity* to be a church but rather an ideology to be accepted by all churches and

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4 "It was Myrtle Fillmore (1845–1931) who led the people in meditation and prayer; it was Charles Fillmore (1854–1948) who made speeches and wrote the books. Indeed, it was a true partnership, but it was one that was dominated by the husband." Ruth A. Tucker, *Another Gospel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1989), 179. Of all the 'New Thought' ideas and religions promulgated by author Emma Hopkins and others in the late 1800's, *Unity* became the largest.

5 According to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (Tenth Edition, Springfield, MA) 729, metaphysics is "A study of what is outside objective experience" while metaphysical is "a reality beyond what is perceptible to the senses." Why the interest in metaphysical healing by the Fillmores? Myrtle Fillmore was the catalyst. She said, "I was fearfully sick [tuberculosis]; I had all the ills of mind and body that I could bear. Medicines and doctors ceased to give me relief, and I was in despair." (Tucker, 179).

In 1886, Myrtle and Charles Fillmore attended a 'New Thought' lecture that changed Myrtle's life because of a phrase and teaching she heard—"I am a child of God and therefore I do not inherit sickness" (Tucker, 181). This new belief permanently changed her outlook on sickness and health. Over time, Myrtle's health returned and she began "practicing her healing 'art' on others" (Tucker, 182).

Charles Fillmore was originally unaffected by the lecture. But as his wife became healthy, he began to fully believe in metaphysics. Charles eventually joined his wife in creating the teachings and religion of *Unity*, "the Truth that is taught in all religions [including metaphysical healing], simplified and systemized so that anyone can understand and apply it." (Tucker, 183).

Russ Wise (Probe Ministries, [www.probe.org/unity-school-of-christianity](http://www.probe.org/unity-school-of-christianity), accessed 9-29-17) summarizes, "The Fillmores were students of Phineas Parkhurst Quimby, a mental healer and metaphysician. Myrtle was also a follower of Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, who was likewise influenced by Quimby. *Unity*, therefore, was birthed by the Fillmores but its roots go back directly to Mary Baker Eddy and both directly and indirectly to Phineas Quimby."

6 One can only wonder at the sources and development of Charles Fillmore's warped theology. On a personal note, perhaps he found the KJV's plural translation of Genesis 3:5 ("ye shall be as gods") nicely complementing his concurrent studies in "Hinduism, Buddhism, Rosicrucianism, spiritualism and Theosophy." (Tucker, 180). Such erroneous interpretation and misguided study of God's Word—while still claiming the Bible as his basic textbook—could support Fillmore ultimately arriving at a false doctrine of 'we are one with God'.

religions. Today *Unity Village* and *Unity Worldwide Ministries* continue this purpose.

What really is *Unity* ideology? From my understanding, it is an actual school of thought. It is a metaphysical education available for everyone—regardless of religion or denomination—who wants to be more Christ-like and ultimately attain oneness with God. This can be seen here:

What is Unity? Unity is positive, practical Christianity. We teach the effective daily application of the principles of Truth taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ. We promote a way of life that leads to health, prosperity, happiness, and peace of mind. Unity has established centers of study and worship throughout the world where people discover and practice the Unity way of life. We address physical, mental, and emotional needs through affirmative prayer and spiritual education. We serve those who seek inspiration and prayer support as well as those who use Unity teachings as their primary path of spiritual growth. We believe that all people are created with sacred worth, and we strive to reach out to all who seek support and spiritual growth. Therefore, we recognize the importance of serving all people in spiritually and emotionally caring ways. Our ministries and outreaches are free of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, creed, religion, national origin, ethnicity, physical disability, and sexual orientation. Our sincere desire is to create spiritually aware organizations that are nondiscriminatory and support diversity.<sup>7</sup>

It is also primarily based upon the false premise of pantheism.<sup>8</sup>

### **Is *Unity* a Cult?**

The *Unity School of Christianity* (hereafter abbreviated as *Unity*) has long been classified a cult. But what is the basis for labeling *Unity* a cult when their teachings are to be embraced by all?<sup>9</sup> A firm, non-

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7 <http://www.unity.org/faq-page#t171n191>, accessed 9-29-2017.

8 "The pantheistic theme is the most prominent of Unity Writings." (Tucker, 184). Merriam-Webster's Dictionary (838) defines *pantheism* as "A doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe; the worship of all gods of different creeds, cults, or peoples indifferently; toleration of worship of all gods."

9 Charles Fillmore wrote, "We have studied many isms, many cults. People of every religion under the sun claim that we either belong to them or have borrowed the best part of our teaching from them. *We have borrowed the best from all religions, that is the reason we are called Unity.* . . . Unity is not a sect, not a separation of people into an exclusive group of know-it-alls. Unity is the Truth that is taught in all religions, simplified . . . so that anyone can understand and apply it. Students of Unity do not find it necessary to sever their church affiliations." (Wise, *ibid*, with italics added).

Christian belief that mankind, *strictly through his or her own effort*, can obtain God-consciousness and be one with God.<sup>10</sup>

*Unity* does not have the classic structure of many cults who made or make newspaper headlines. Even though *Unity* does not portray itself in a way most people readily recognize a cult (having a strong prophet-leader, tight authoritarian control over members, unusual or outlandish behavior of the leader and/or followers, etc.), it is still a cult.

In describing the basic composition of a cult Ronald Enroth writes, “There are at least three basic approaches in defining cult: a sensational or popular approach, a sociological approach, and a theological approach.”<sup>11</sup> Additionally, one definition by Jim Sire adequately describes *Unity’s* cultic classification: “Any religious movement that is organizationally distinct and has doctrines and/or practices that contradict those of the Scriptures as interpreted by traditional Christianity as represented by the major Catholic and Protestant denominations, and as expressed in such statements as the Apostles’ Creed.”<sup>12</sup>

### ***Unity’s* Unorthodox Interpretation of the Bible**

*Unity* theology involves recruiting and retaining members who can remain practicing Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, etc. There is no need for a *Unity* conversion, only a *Unity* education—which, in New Age parlance, can be defined as ‘spiritual enlightenment’. This educational enlightenment in conjunction with individual attainment is the benchmark of *Unity* teaching:

“What are *Unity’s* basic teachings? We encourage you to explore and apply *Unity* teachings based on your own spiritual understanding. We believe this spiritual understanding is enhanced through reflective prayer and meditation. The five basic ideas that make up the *Unity* belief system are: 1) God is the source and creator of all. There is no other enduring power. God is good and present everywhere. 2) We are spiritual beings, created in God’s image. The spirit of God lives within each person; therefore, all people are inherently good. 3) We create our life experiences through our way of thinking. 4) There is power in affirmative prayer, which we believe increases our

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10 To quote Russ Wise (*ibid*), “The ultimate goal of those who follow *Unity* teaching is to recognize their true self, the God-Self. The god of *Unity* is an adaptation of Hindu belief regarding the divine.”

11 Quoted by Tucker, 17.

12 Quoted by Tucker, 16.

connection to God. 5) Knowledge of these spiritual principles is not enough. We must live them.”<sup>13</sup>

What really sets *Unity* apart from other movements is their peculiar way of interpreting the Bible (their theological method) as a whole. As Charles Fillmore stated, “*Beginning with the very first chapter of Genesis, the Bible is an allegory*’. From his [Fillmore’s] perspective, *nothing in Scripture ought to necessarily be taken literally.*”<sup>14</sup>

The above statement by Fillmore represents use of a highly unorthodox hermeneutic that results in a seriously flawed allegorical interpretation of the Bible. Orthodox Christians believe God literally sent His only begotten Son—Our Lord Jesus Christ—into this world for our salvation (John 3:16), that Jesus Christ literally died for us (Romans 5:8–9), and that He literally rose again and was seen by over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:3–6) before His literal ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9–11).

We also know from our conversion experience and walk with God’s Son that Jesus Christ is indeed our Savior (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:5) and that the Holy Spirit—the “Spirit of truth” who indwells us—is a real Person and not allegorical (John 14:16–17). By no means does *Unity* theology and ideology—with particular regard to an Omnipotent, All-Creator God and the Work of Jesus Christ in mankind’s redemption—mirror orthodox Trinity teaching.

### **A closer look at *Unity*’s Cultic Teachings**

Let us consider two primary doctrinal reasons *Unity* is classified a cult: (1) *Unity* denies essential Biblical doctrine regarding salvation (Romans 10:9–13; Acts 4:12), and (2) *Unity* believes they alone have discovered the way one can be like and become God (Revelation 22:18–19).

Both Charles (through a dream, hearing a voice) and Myrtle (using her “I am a child of God, I do not inherit sickness” mantra) Fillmore resorted to their own spiritual encounters, educational endeavors, and metaphysical healings as the way to attain individual salvation and attainment with God. They then promulgated their own thoughts and ideas to others, *for they believed they alone had access to and understanding of real truth.*

The Fillmores were also guilty of syncretism, the watering down and mixing of pure Biblical teachings with false religious beliefs. Through

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.unity.org/faq-page#t171n262>, accessed 9-29-2017. Tucker (190) adds, “More than any other established alternative religion, Unity has embraced [the theology of] the New Age Movement.”

<sup>14</sup> Tucker, 187 (italics added).

a school of thought, the practice of metaphysical healings, and the mingling of orthodox Christianity with other religious systems, the Fillmores reduced God's True Gospel to just one of many gospels—although still holding on to the Bible as their stated basic textbook. In the following paragraphs, it will become clear that the false teachings of *Unity* are the thoughts and words of fallen man rather than the thoughts and words of God.

### **A. *Unity* on the Godhead**

Charles Fillmore stated, “God does not love anybody or anything. God is the love in everybody and everything. God exercises none of His attributes except through the inner conscience of the universe and man.”<sup>15</sup> Wise further explains Fillmore's theology; “God is not a personal being but an energy force that expresses itself as a pantheistic love that permeates all things.”<sup>16</sup>

Charles Fillmore's statement is in direct opposition to the Word of God. Throughout Scripture, God is described as having emotions like a personal being (e.g. love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8); anger (Psalm 2:4–5), wrath (Deuteronomy 32:22), jealousy (Exodus 34:14), etc.<sup>17</sup> The Bible also states that (Genesis 1:26) “God created man in His own image”, meaning “man was placed on earth as God's representative”<sup>18</sup> rather than the idea of man eventually becoming God Himself.

Although orthodox Christians may differ as to exactly how far “the personification of God with human-like emotions” should be understood, Scripture certainly teaches us that God is much more than an “energy force”. He created us to worship Him, to have personal and group fellowship with Him, and if we believe in his Son to live in His glory for all eternity.<sup>19</sup>

### **B. The Pantheistic god of *Unity***

The second false teaching of Charles Fillmore (usually present in modern New Age movements as well as ancient Eastern religions) is

15 Wise (ibid) as quoted from Charles Fillmore's book, *Jesus Christ Heals*.

16 Wise, ibid.

17 Wise (ibid) adds, “The Bible clearly teaches that God is a personal Being and that He is knowable...with a will (Matthew 6:10, Hebrews 10:7–9 and 1 John 2:17)... Isaiah 43:25 and Jeremiah 31:20 tell us that God remembers...Matthew 3:17 says that God speaks...Elsewhere the Bible tells us that God is a personal Spirit (John 4:24 and Hebrews 1:13).”

18 William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 33 continues, “[Man] resembles God in certain ways. Like God, man has intellect, a moral nature, the power to communicate with others, and an emotional nature that transcends instinct. There is no thought of physical likeness here. In contrast to animals, man is a worshipper, an articulate communicator, and a creator.” Simply stated: We are His creation—the reflection of a Sovereign Creator—and this positional truth between God as Creator and man as creature will never change (Romans 1:20).

19 Compare John 4:23–24; Revelation 7:9–12.

the belief that God is pantheistic. Since God is literally in all things, we as humans are therefore a part of all things, and so it is up to each of us to find our own inner spiritual core so we too can learn to become one with “Mother-Father God.”<sup>20</sup>

God’s Word (Colossians 1:16–17) states, “All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” There is no mention of God placing His Spirit or His Son *in all things* (e.g. rocks, trees, water). Rather, as Sovereign Creator, God is above all of His creation while He supports all He has created (e.g. Psalm 104:1–32; Ecclesiastes 12:1–7).

With respect to creation and pantheism, the Bible clearly distinguishes between man and God as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:47: “The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.” Finally, *Unity’s* erroneous self-centered theology and worship of a pantheistic god instead of Our True Sovereign God is summarized in Romans 1:18–24, concluding with verse 25: “. . . for they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

### **C. The False Christ of *Unity***

In describing Jesus Christ, *Unity* minister and author Donald Curtis states, “Christ is the universal principle of love and wisdom. Christ is the only Son of God, but this only Son of God lives in each one of us.”<sup>21</sup>

Russ Wise comments, “Curtis...holds the position that Jesus is man and that Christ is divine consciousness... [Thus] our spirituality is based on the discovery that the Christ is inherently within each of us regardless of our personal beliefs or affiliations.”<sup>22</sup> Such blatant false teaching denies the literal Work (Philippians 2:5–11) and Person (John 14:6) of Jesus Christ.

### **D. *Unity’s* False and Gnostic Way of Salvation**

*Unity* theology regarding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is strikingly revealed in *Unity’s* publication *The Way to Salvation*, “Jesus Christ was not meant to be slain as a substitute for man; that is, to atone vicariously for him. Each person must achieve at-one-ment with God, by letting the Christ Spirit within him resurrect his soul into Christ

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20 According to a past *Unity* pamphlet titled *What is Unity Anyway?* (further documentation unavailable), “God is Spirit, and Spirit is neither male nor female. (When addressing God in prayer, *Unity* begins with Father/Mother God. This balances masculine and feminine and helps with our human understanding and connection to God).”

21 Wise, *ibid.*

22 Wise, *ibid.*



perfection.”<sup>23</sup> Charles Fillmore further explains *Unity* teaching with respect to Jesus, “[As] through the intensity of His devotions [He] had made union with the Divine Mind, we too are on a spiritual quest to accomplish the same—to have total union with the Divine Mind.”<sup>24</sup>

Since “the core of *Unity* teaching is that the mind has power over the body,”<sup>25</sup> then the Bible’s core message of ‘salvation by justification and redemption in Christ alone’ (Romans 3:21–25) is completely eradicated. It is falsely replaced with the teaching that *Unity* believers attain their own salvation based on individual knowledge and education (Gnosticism).

The Biblical meaning of salvation is therefore rejected by *Unity*. *Unity*’s salvation consists of an individual’s here-and-now, the ability to find inner peace within self by removing worldly concerns and mental baggage from one’s psyche. By prolonged learning and meditation, one allows God’s Spirit to take over self. Accordingly, the more one meditates and learns how to control one’s mind, the closer one comes to becoming or being God.

What is the practical goal for *Unity*’s salvation plan? As stated in Charles Fillmore’s book *Mysteries of John*, “It is to become Christ-like in the following manner: Jesus had obtained power on three planes of consciousness; the spiritual, the physical, and the material. After his resurrection He held his body on the physical and the astral planes for forty days...”<sup>26</sup>

Scripture refutes this disturbing false teaching by stating (for example) in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”, and 1 Corinthians 15:3–4: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, *that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

In summary, *Unity* promotes “a false works-based self-salvation” in contrast with the biblical doctrine of ‘salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone’ (Ephesians 2:8–10).

### **E. *Unity*’s Postmortem Salvation**

What happens if you do not attain Christlikeness in this lifetime?

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23 Wise, *ibid.*

24 Tucker, 186.

25 Tucker, 187.

26 Tucker, 186.

*Unity* teaches, “We believe all may have opportunity to attain immortality through regeneration, as did Jesus.”<sup>27</sup> In other words, Charles Fillmore believed in reincarnation. But not the reincarnation of the Eastern World where things such as karma, evolution, and good or bad deeds in this life influence your new body or soul migration in the next life. “To *Unity*, it [regeneration] is a ‘unifying force’ through which God seeks to restore man to his original state.”<sup>28</sup>

Fillmore’s teaching that we just come back to this world in another body—picking up where we left off in the previous life to further attain Christlikeness—is just another satanically induced false doctrine based on religious syncretism. The Bible’s clear teaching rejecting postmortem salvation opportunities is stated clearly in Hebrews 9:27: “And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Opportunity for post-death salvation through regeneration or reincarnation is not Biblical doctrine.

## Conclusion

“*Unity* teaches that man’s primary problem is that he has spiritual amnesia and needs to reconnect with his destiny. He needs to regain the realization that he is evolving toward divinity.”<sup>29</sup>

Accordingly, a *Unity* member is taught that one only needs to believe that Jesus Christ was the perfect man, who through his life attained and maintained God-consciousness. Thus Jesus serves as an example of how a *Unity* follower can reach that same divine plateau through individual effort and thus become one (at-one-ment) with God. To achieve this goal, “*Unity* emphasizes personal and spiritual development, and offers classes, books and a spiritual community worldwide.”<sup>30</sup>

Such belief is impossible to reconcile with God’s Word—especially regarding the Work and Person of Jesus Christ. Additional false *Unity* doctrine associated with Jesus Christ, as I understand it: (1) The virgin birth of Christ is “an individual spiritual experience”, and (2) The second coming of Christ is “an individual expression of Christ consciousness”. With a plethora of non-biblical doctrines far removed from true and orthodox Christianity, *Unity* theology is indeed false and “a ravenous wolf in sheep’s clothing” as Jesus warned us (Matthew 7:15; Matthew 24:24).

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27 Tucker, 186.

28 Tucker, 186.

29 Wise, *ibid.*

30 Quoted from the *Unity* pamphlet “*So, What is Unity Anyway?*”, *ibid.*

## Summary

The Bible tells us to be watchful of false teachers (e.g. Christ-deniers, 2 Peter 2:1) who are unstable (1 Timothy 1:6–7), deceitful (Ephesians 4:14), and pervert grace (Galatians 1:6–8). 1 John 4:1 commands us ‘to prove the spirits, to see if they are of God’, for we know that 2 Timothy 3:13: ‘But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.’

The sad truth is *Unity* members are blind as to the real love of God (1 John 4:10) and the affect of unrepentant sin—which actually is what prevents us from having unity with God (Romans 6:23). Nor do *Unity* believers understand that forgiveness of sins is through belief in Jesus Christ alone (e.g. Isaiah 53:5–6, 10; Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 2:17; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 1:7, 9; Revelation 1:5).

Equally sad and disturbing, *Unity* cult members forfeit new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) for this old life in their quest to become one with God. As Paul said about wayward Israel in Romans 10:1 and what we as Christians must do for all those caught up in *Unity* teaching and doctrine, ‘Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God...is that they may be saved.’

Only when the way, the truth, and the life is obtained through Jesus Christ our Lord (John 14:6) can mankind truly know unity with God. In this way we live out lives of faith while we cling to the literal promise stated in 1 John 3:2–3, “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Our goal in this life is not to be “one in love and spirit with all people”<sup>31</sup> for self-gratification, personal enlightenment, and salvation through individual works. Rather our goal in life is to fulfill the great commission in spreading the truth of God’s love to our fellow man, including those who have fallen prey to the false teachings and doctrines of *Unity* (Matt. 28:19–20).

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31 Quoted from *Unity's* daily devotional publication, *Daily Word* (Further documentation unavailable).

## QUIZ: CHRISTIAN LEADERS

1. Which Christian leader courageously defended the doctrine of the Trinity and the deity of Christ at the Council of Nicea (325 A. D.) even when it seemed the whole world was against him?
  - a. Arius
  - b. Athanasius
  - c. Julian the Apostate
  - d. Justin the Martyr
  
2. Which Christian leader was bishop of Myra in the fourth century, was tortured for his faith under the persecution under Diocletian, opposed Arius at the Council of Nicea (325 A. D.), and is revered annually across the world during the nativity of Christ festival?
  - a. Polycarp
  - b. Polybass
  - c. Saint Polyester
  - d. Saint Nicholas
  
3. Which Christian leader was a philosopher, was persistently prayed for by his godly mother Monica, was converted to Christ upon reading the Book of Romans after hearing children singing, "Take up and read," eventually becoming Bishop of Hippo, a theologian of monumental importance, writing many great works including "The Confessions" and "The City of God."
  - a. Jerome
  - b. Tertullian
  - c. Augustine
  - d. Septembertine

4. Which Christian leader was the greatest philosopher and theologian of the middle ages, best known for his works *Summa Theological* and *Summa Contra Gentiles* and his five ways of defending belief in God.
- a. Thomas Aquinas
  - b. Bonaventure
  - c. Francis of Assisi
  - d. Artexerxes
5. This Christian leader came to be known as the “Morning Star of the Reformation” for his ground breaking work in translating the Bible into English, the common language of the People. For this effort and for his doctrinal reforms, he was later declared a heretic by the Roman Catholic Church, whom some 40 years after his death, exhumed his body, burned it, and scattered his remains in the River Swift England.
- a. Erasmus
  - b. Ptolemy
  - c. Jan Hus
  - d. John Wycliffe
6. This Christian leader sparked the Reformation with the posting of his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenburg Germany October 31, 1517, opposed the selling of indulgences, defended justification by faith, translated the Bible into German, and wrote many great works and commentaries on the Bible.
- a. Melanchathon
  - b. Martin Luther King Jr
  - c. Martin Luther
  - d. John Knox

7. This Christian leader was a great reformer, Bible commentator, and theologian. Among many writings, his best known work is his great work of systematic theology “The Institutes of the Christian Religion.” He was also the theocratic leader of Geneva Switzerland where he opposed the heretic Michael Servetus.

- a. John Piper
- b. John Calvin
- c. Calvin Klein
- d. Jacob Arminius

8. This Christian leader is often known as “The Founder of Modern Missions.” He was a baptist missionary best known for his groundbreaking work in India. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Baptist Missionary Society. His writing, “An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens” is credited as providing the impetus for the explosion of foreign Christian missions that followed.

- a. Charles Spurgeon
- b. David Livingstone (I presume)
- c. John Wesley
- d. William Carey

9. This Christian leader stood strong for fundamental Biblical truth against the modernist during the conservative versus the liberal battles of the early twentieth Century. He was a New Testament scholar and theologian at Princeton University where he defended essential Christian doctrines like the Virgin Birth and the inerrancy of Scripture, and writing such classics as “Christianity and Liberalism,” and “The Virgin Birth.” After being forced out of Princeton, he was a key figure in the founding of Westminster Theological Seminary and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

- a. Charles Hodge
- b. Gresham Machen
- c. B. B. Warfield
- d. B. B. Gunn

10. This Christian leader is said to have personally delivered the gospel message to more people than any evangelist in Christian history. His evangelistic rallies were called crusades. His primary team included song-leader Cliff Barrows, singer George Beverly Shea and and Grady Wilson. He succeeded William Bell Riley as the second president of the fundamentalist Northwestern Schools in Minnesota.

- a. Bob Jones
- b. Billy Sunday
- c. Billy Graham
- d. Charles Templeton

Answers:

1, b; 2, d; 3, c; 4, a; 5, d; 6, c; 7, b; 8, d; 9, b; 10, c

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