

## **Christianity, Cult's and Religions – A comparative Look at the World we live in.**

During this study, we'll look at 8 distinctive areas that separate and define each of 20 different religions or cults that exist in the world today. This is not to be considered an exhaustive study nor is it to be considered inclusive of all the world's religions or cults. But it is only an overview of some of the major influences in the world today. There are many more sub-cultures and "sects" of each of these that we will not have the time to discuss. Therefore let me encourage each of you to determine to investigate and learn for yourselves what those influences are and how they may affect your personal Christian belief system and Christian walk with God.

"I don't know what I don't know, and I do know what I do know!" – Doug Doran  
I only know and believe what is in the Bible, and if it isn't in the Bible, I don't know it to be fact, and I'm not going to make up something just to satisfy human curiosity.

### ***Unity School of Christianity:***

**Founder:** Charles (1854-1948) and Myrtle Fillmore (1845 – 1931)

**Date:** 1889 – Remember that most of these cults and religions were founded after Christianity.

**Location:** Founded in Kansas City, MO, Headquarters – Unity Village, MO

**Followers:** They have shortened the name to just Unity.

**Key Writings:** Unity Magazine; Lessons in Truth; Metaphysical Bible Dictionary; the Bible (it is not reliable unless interpreted with "hidden" meanings). You can see a theme developing here with most of these cults, and that is most of them Believe in the bible, but feel the need to ADD to it and write another book to explain the unexplainable. Remember what I said earlier. I don't know the things I don't know. **The Twelve Powers of Man**, by Charles Fillmore – *"The average religious thinker knows nothing about the subconscious mind and very little about the superconscious; this book presupposes a working knowledge of both. This book aims to clear up the mystery that ever envelops the advent, life, and death of Jesus."* Many cults talk about achieving a "higher" level of understanding in order to understand the meaning of that religion. But in Christianity Jesus said, *"you must become as a child to enter the Kingdom of God."* Mark 10:14-15. Matt. 18:4

**Who is God?:** God is invisible and impersonal. "God" is interchangeable with "Principle," "Law," "Being," "Mind," or "Spirit." God is in everything, much as the soul is in the body. No Trinity. The spirit is reality, but matter is not reality. Doesn't this sound familiar? Christian Science etc.

**Who is Jesus?:** Jesus was a man and not the Christ. Instead, he was a man who had "Christ Consciousness." "Christ" is a state of perfection in every person. Jesus had lived many times before and was in search of his own salvation. Jesus did not die as a sacrifice for anyone's sins. Jesus did not rise physically and will never return to earth in physical form. Unity teaches that the spirit of God lived in Jesus, just as it

lives in every person. Every person has the potential to express the perfection of Christ as Jesus did, by being more Christ-like in everyday life.

**Who is the Holy Spirit?:** The Holy Spirit is the law of god in action, the “executive power of both Father and Son.” A “definite” thought in the mind of man.

**How to be Saved:** by recognizing that each person is as much a son of God as Jesus is. There is no evil, no devil, no sin, no poverty, and no old age. A person is reincarnated until he learns these truths and becomes “perfect.” *Sin is our separation from God, the Good, in consciousness. Salvation is now--not something that occurs after death. It happens whenever we turn our thoughts from fear, anxiety, worry, and doubt to thoughts of love, harmony, joy, and peace. The "fall" takes place in consciousness whenever we fall into negative habits of thinking. Heaven and hell are states of consciousness, not geographical locations. We make our own heaven or hell here and now by our thoughts, words, and deeds.*

**What happens after Death?:** Death is the result of wrong thinking. One moves to a different body (reincarnation) until enlightenment. No literal heaven or hell. The Bible says, “It is appointed unto men once to die, and then the judgment.” **Heb 9:27** None is righteous. **Romans 3:10; Ps. 53:3**

### **Other facts, beliefs, and practices.**

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 connection to God.
5. Knowledge of these spiritual principles is not enough. We must live them.
6. *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.*

7. The Unity church that the “Spirit” is calling us to step into a fuller expression of our own divinity.

Note: The fact presented here are a combination of information taken from Rose Publishing © 2014 and from various web sites including [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org).