

False Views of Jesus Christ (Examples of “Re-defining” Jesus Christ)

Dear Reader,

Consider the words of Jesus Christ:

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you...For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many...And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:4,5,11)

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:23-27)

As you will see in reading this list below, people get pretty creative when they “re-define” who Jesus Christ. The following list illustrates just how poorly people misinterpret the Bible regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ. Reader discretion is advised!

Many of the following quotes are sited from the *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions* . 1

We have included more in the list and will add more as time goes on. We highly recommend that you get a copy of John Ankerberg and John Weldon’s *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions* as well as a copy of the companion book *Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs*. Both are excellent discernment resources!

Anthroposophy (Rudolf Steiner). “[Jesus] ... must be designated in the truest sense of the word as a 'mere man.'” 2

Association for Research and Enlightenment (Edgar Cayce). “He [Jesus] is an example for man, and only as a man, for He lived only as a man, He died as man.” 3

Astara (Earlyne Chaney). Jesus is “the Master Mystic of all time” who realized the Christ, a state of higher consciousness. Jesus is not the Savior from sin and only incarnation of God. 4

The Baha’i Faith (The Bab; Baha’u’llah). “Jesus was not the only-begotten Son of God come down from Heaven, crucified and resurrected, nor the unique Saviour.” 5

The Christadelphians (John Thomas). “Jesus Christ did not exist as a person from eternity as one of the triune Godhead He did not actually come into being until He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born in Bedilehem.” 6

Christian Science (Mary Baker Eddy). “Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus Himself declared, but is the Son of God.” 7

The Christian Spiritual Alliance (Roy Eugene Davis). “Jesus was not the only be- gotten.” 8

Church of the New Jerusalem (Emanuel Swedenborg). “This [belief in the Trinity] is the source and only source from which have sprung monstrous heresies concerning God ... [and] introduced into the church ... death as well.” 9

Church Universal and Triumphant (Elizabeth Claire Prophet). "God the Father did not require the sacrifice of His son Christ Jesus or of any other incarnation of the Christ, as atonement for the sins of the world." 10

The Divine Life Society/Integral Yoga Institute (Sivananda, Satchidananda). "Remember that, Christ is not a person. It's an experience-Christhood. Like Nirvana or Buddha. It's an experience." 11

Divine Science (Nona Brooks). "Someone has said that the greatest discovery of the nineteenth century was Jesus Christ. He was rediscovered and rescued from the superstitious misconceptions regarding him, in which he was thought of as a superman of extraordinary powers which were and ever would be beyond the rank and file of the race." 12

Eckankar (Paul Twitchell). ". . . do not put Him [Jesus] in a special category, for all saviours and prophets who came to earth to help mankind did their part and passed on to the glory of the heavenly kingdom." 13

The Foundation of Human Understanding (Roy Masters). "You must not have any concepts of what Christ is like or God is like. It all must be an inward revelation process." 14

The Free Communion Church (Da Free John). "The conventional cultic and exoteric interpretation of the life and person of Jesus considers him to be an exclusive manifestation of God, representing a history, a way of life, and a destiny that no one else can enjoy or duplicate . . . Such was absolutely not the point of view of Jesus himself." 15

The Gurdjieff Foundation (Gurdjieff). "[In a conversation] Gurdjieff said: 'I hate your Jesus, poor Jewish boy' 'the emphasis being on 'your.'" 16

The Hanuman Foundation (Ram Dass). "I have a relative [a brother] who is in a mental hospital. He thinks he is Christ. Well, that's groovy. I am Christ also . . . as far as I'm concerned we are all God." 17

The Himalayan Institute (Swami Rama). "The Christ is your Soul and you should learn to see Him in all beings." 18

The Holy Order of Mans (Paul Blighton). "The Master Jesus never made any claims for himself... [He] was a man, and through discipline and striving became receptive enough for the Christ force to enter and change him." 19

Integral Yoga (Sri Aurobindo). "If Jesus re- turned today, He would not recognize in Christianity what He Himself taught" 20

International Society for Krishna Conscious- ness (A. C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada). "Christ's claim to be the only son of God is often misunderstood When Jesus Christ taught His doctrine in the Middle East@ he appeared to be God's only son, or pure devotee.... [But] why should God have only one son? ... God can have billions and trillions of sons and ... each and every one can be His 'only' son." 21

Jehovah's Witnesses (Charles Taze Russell). "The incarnation is scripturally erroneous. Indeed, if he (Christ) had been an incarnate being, he could never have redeemed mankind." 22

The Local Church (Witness Lee). "He has God's nature, and we also have God's nature. He is no longer God's only begotten Son: now by His resurrection He has become God's firstborn Son (Romans 8:29) and we are the many sons of God (Hebrews 2:10)." 23

Love Family/The Children of God (David Berg). "[There is] no reason why He [Jesus] shouldn't enjoy the sexual fellowship of Mary and Martha! AND HE DID BECAUSE I SAW MARY MAKING LOVE TO HIM in a Vision." 24

Lucis 'Trust (Alice Bailey). "The Incarnation, which is for popular Christianity synonymous with

the historical birth and earthly life of Christ, is for the mystic not only this but also a perpetual cosmic and personal process." 25

The Masonic Lodge. A former Mason reports, "Freemasonry 'carefully excludes' the Lord Jesus Christ from the lodge and chapter, repudiates His mediatorship, rejects His atonement, denies and disowns His Gospel, frowns upon His religion and His church, ignores the Holy Spirit..." 26

Mighty I AM (Guy Ballard, pen name Godfre Ray King). "I [Jesus] wish it distinctly understood by all who may receive this or ever contact it, that I am not and never was a Special Being created of God different from the rest of humanity!" 27 [Alleged revelation from Jesus.]

New Thought. "We revere Jesus the man ... as one who exemplified ... the great Principle of perfection and wholeness. Jesus was a Way- Shower-the Savior-in the sense that He drew us out of our limitations." 29

Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism (Daisaku Ikeda). "The doctrines of the divinity and the resurrection of Christ are outside the province of rational thought ... Christians are schizophrenic." 30

Radhasoami/Radhaswami/Radha Soami (Charan Singh; Sawan Singh Ji). "Actually there is no statement in the New Testament, except possibly one or two interpolations, in which Jesus makes any claim to an exclusive divine sonship. This idea was not incorporated into the Christian religion until long after his death." 31

Rajneesh Foundation International (Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh). "To tell you the truth, Jesus is a mental case.... He is a fanatic. He carries the same kind of mind as Adolf Hitler. He is a fascist He thinks that only those who follow him will be saved." 32

Rosicrucianism/AMORC (H. Spencer Lewis). "Nowhere in the teachings and practices of Jesus can we find the least intimation that His great system was intended to bring salvation to the physical body of man. Even the salvation of the soul was not taught by Jesus, and all references in the Christian Bible to the salvation of the soul constitute a misinterpretation, a misunderstanding, of the secret [Rosicrucianism] principle that Jesus taught" 33

Rudrananda Foundation (Swami Rudrananda; Rudi). In Spiritual Cannibalism Jesus is described as "a god," a "realized" man, like Buddha and other teachers. 34

Etc...

As you can see, there are many unbiblical views of who Jesus Christ is. Again, we have included this list in order to illustrate just how wrong people can be—and to encourage you to buy a good discernment book that points out false belief systems. The Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions actually lists many more examples.

Consider again the words of Jesus Christ:

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We are currently compiling a more extensive list at the Spiritual Research Network and we will be posting and updating it as time moves on. Below are 34 endnotes out of the close to 3,000 in the Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions.

Notes:

1. John Ankerberg and John Weldon, *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions* [Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House, 1998], 731 pages. ISBN: 0736900748].
2. Rudolf Steiner, *From Jesus to Christ* (London: Rudolf Steiner Press, 1973), pp. 51-52.
3. Association for Research and Enlightenment, Edgar Cayce, reading #900-10 from *Circulating File: Jesus the Pattern and You* (Virginia Beach: A.R.E. Press, 1971), p. 53 (F).
4. Earlyne Chaney, *Reincarnation* (booklet) (Upland, CA: Astara, 1967), pp. 6-7; Robert Chaney, *Mysticism: Me Journey Within* (Upland, CA: Astara, 1979), pp. 117, 163-73.
5. Firuz Kazemzeden (ed.), *World Order* (periodical), Summer, 1978 (The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States), p. 39.
6. *The Christadelphian Messenger*, No. 46, "The Word Made Flesh," p. 3.
7. Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (Boston: The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1934), p. 361.
8. Roy Eugene Davis, *The Hidden Teachings of Jesus Revealed* (Lakemont, GA: CSA Press, 1968), p. 9, emphasis added.
- Emanuel Swedenborg, *The True Christian Religion*, Vol. I (New York: Swedenborg Foundation, Inc., 1972), pp. 32-33.
10. *The Ascended Masters*, dictated to Mark and Elizabeth Prophet, *Pearls of Wisdom*, Sept. 16, 1979 (Vol. 22, No. 37), pp. 279-280.
11. Swami Satchidananda, *Satchidananda Speaks* (Annhurst III Integral Yoga Ecumenical Retreat), June 17, 1975, pp. 47-48.
12. Agnes Lawson, *Hints to Bible Study* (Denver: Divine Science Federation International, 1973), pp. 199-200.
13. Paul Twitchell, *The Tige's Fang* (San Diego: Illuminated Way Press, 1975), pp. 170-71.
14. Roy Masters, "The Mystery of Golgotha," (tape).
15. Da Free John (Franklin Jones), *Scientific Proof of the Existence of God Will Soon Be Announced at the White House* (Clearlake Highlands, CA: The Dawn Horse Press, 1980), p. 218.
16. C. S. Nott, *Teachings of Gurdjieff-, A Pupil's Journal* (New York: Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1978), p. 103.
17. Ram Dass, *Be Here Now* (Park Avenue, NY: Crown Publishing, 1971), Section Two, p. 99.
18. Himalayan International Institute, *Meditation in Christianity* (Prospect Heights, IL: Himalayan International Institute, 1973), p. 63.
19. *Discipleship Newsletter* (Cheyenne, WY: Holy Order of Mans Discipleship Movement) p. 7
20. Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, *A Practical Guide to Integral Yoga* (compiled by Manishai, Pondicherry, India: Sri Aurobindo Ashrain, 1973), p. 50.
- Back to Godhead* (periodical), Vol. 12, no. 12, pp. 11-12.
- J. F. Rutherford, *The Harp of God* (1921 edition), p. 101. 23. Witness Lee, *How to Meet* (Anaheim, CA: Stream Publishers, 1970), p. 30.
24. David Berg, *The Mo Letters*, Vol. 4 (Hong Kong: Golden Lion Publishers, 1978), p. 4016, "More on Feedin' the Fish," May, 1976, *Disciples Only*, No. 549.47-48.
25. Alice Bailey, *From Bethlehem to Calvary* (New York: Lucis, 1976), p. 7
26. Edmond Ronayne, *The Master's Carpet* (Chicago: Ezra Cook Company, 1879), p. 87.
27. Godfre Ray King, *The "I AM" Discourses* (Santa Fe, NM: Saint Germain Press, 1940), p. 222.

29. New Thought (periodical), Autumn 1978, p. 11.
30. Noah S. Brannen, Soka Gakka4 Japan's Militant Buddhists (Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1968), pp. 98-99:
31. Joseph Leeming, Yoga and the Bible (Punjab, India: Shri S. L. Sondhi, Secretary, Radha Soami Satsang Beas, 1978), p. 5.
32. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, The Rajneesh Bible, Vol. I (Rajneeshpruam: OR: Rajneesh Foundation International, 1985), pp. 9-10.
33. Spencer Lewis, The Secret Doctrine of Jesus (San Jose, CA: Supreme Grand Lodge of AMORC), pp. 186-87, 189-91.
34. Rudi (Swami Rudrananda), Spiritual Cannibalism (Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1978), p. 95.