
“Come, Let Us Reason Together About the Church”

What Is the Church of the New Testament?

Bible Study Series

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” —(Matthew 16:18)

LESSON TEN — How Do Churches Compare to the New Testament Church?

Part 2. Non-Traditional, Independent Churches

Estimated Reading Time: 35 minutes

Assemblies of God, USA

Christian Science (Christian Scientists)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

Church of Scientology

Jehovah’s Witnesses

Southern Baptists

Assemblies of God

The **Assemblies of God (AG)** is one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world. Known for its emphasis on **miraculous gifts, emotional worship, and speaking in tongues**, it presents a distinct contrast to the simple, orderly pattern of the New Testament church. While its adherents are often sincere in their desire to follow God, many of its teachings and practices deviate from the doctrine of Christ.

Its **origin, distinctive doctrines, worship style**, and how it compares to the church Jesus established in the first century are discussed in the following sub headings:

Origin and Development

The Assemblies of God denomination began in **1914 in Hot Springs, Arkansas**, as part of the larger **Pentecostal movement** that emerged in the early 1900s. The movement was heavily influenced by the **Azusa Street Revival (1906–1915)** in Los Angeles, which was characterized by speaking in tongues, ecstatic worship, and claims of divine healing.

The founders of the Assemblies of God believed they were **restoring New Testament Christianity**, particularly the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit described in Acts. However, the movement arose over **1,800 years after the establishment of the Lord’s church** (Acts 2), and its practices often **go beyond what is written** in the Word of God.

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.” (2 John 9)

Key Distinctive Doctrines

1. Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Speaking in Tongues

The Assemblies of God teaches that believers receive a **second experience of grace** after conversion called the “**baptism in the Holy Spirit,**” evidenced by speaking in **tongues (glossolalia)**.

However, the Bible does not teach that all Christians will speak in tongues, nor that such an experience is necessary for spiritual maturity. In the New Testament:

- Tongues were **known human languages**, not unintelligible babbling (Acts 2:6–11)
- Not all Christians spoke in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:29–30)
- The **baptism of the Holy Spirit** was a **unique event**, not a normative second blessing (Acts 2; Acts 10)

Paul taught that miraculous gifts would **cease**:

“But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease... For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.” (1 Corinthians 13:8–10)

The miraculous gifts were temporary, servicing to confirm the Word before the completion of the New Testament (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3–4).

2. Emotional Worship and Sensationalism

AG worship services are often characterized by:

- **Clapping, dancing, and raised hands**
- **Spontaneous shouting or speaking in tongues**
- **Claims of divine healing or prophecy**

While heartfelt worship is biblical (John 4:24), the **chaotic and emotionally driven nature** of AG worship often contradicts the orderly tone of early Christian gatherings:

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

“God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” (1 Corinthians 14:33)

The early church focused on **teaching, prayer, singing, the Lord’s Supper, and giving**—not emotional displays or personal experiences (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7).

3. Women in Leadership and Pastoral Roles

The Assemblies of God permit **women to serve as pastors**, elders, and preachers. This practice is at odds with the apostolic instructions regarding leadership in the church:

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.” (1 Timothy 2:12)

“Let your women keep silent in the churches... for it is not permitted to them to speak...” (1 Corinthians 14:34)

The qualifications for elders require them to be “the husband of one wife” (Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 3:2). The pattern for church leadership is not based on modern equality, but on God’s design for roles in the home and church (1 Corinthians 11:3).

4. Salvation by Grace, but Confusion on Baptism

The Assemblies of God teaches that salvation is **by grace through faith**, but often fails to emphasize the **biblical role of baptism** in the forgiveness of sins. They teach that one can be saved prior to baptism, and that baptism is a symbol, not a requirement.

However, the New Testament consistently connects baptism with:

- **Remission of sins** (Acts 2:38)
- **Washing away of sins** (Acts 22:16)
- **Being united with Christ** (Romans 6:3–4)
- **Entering the body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Jesus Himself said:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

Baptism is not optional or symbolic—it is the moment of **obedient faith** when one receives salvation.

Conclusion: A Movement of Zeal Without Biblical Foundation

The Assemblies of God are filled with people who are enthusiastic, expressive, and passionate about their beliefs. But the Bible warns that **zeal without knowledge** leads to error:

“They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” (Romans 10:2)

Despite its appeal to experience, AG doctrine does the following:

- **Misuses miraculous gifts**
- **Distorts worship**
- **Permits unauthorized leadership**
- **Misrepresents God’s plan of salvation**

The church of the New Testament is:

- Built on the **apostles' doctrine** (Acts 2:42)
- Governed by **scriptural elders and deacons** (Philippians 1:1)
- Devoted to **worship in spirit and truth** (John 4:24)
- Saved by **faith and obedience**, including baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

One is never to substitute emotion for truth, or experience for Scripture. Only when we return to the pattern revealed in God's Word can we be confident that we are truly part of the church that belongs to Christ.

Christian Science (Christian Scientists)

The **Church of Christ, Scientist**, more commonly known as **Christian Science**, was founded in 1879 by **Mary Baker Eddy** in Boston, Massachusetts. Its core teachings are found not only in the Bible but in Eddy's book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. While using biblical terminology, the church departs dramatically from New Testament doctrine.

Origin and Teachings

Christian Science emerged from Eddy's belief that spiritual understanding, not medicine, heals disease. She taught that the material world—including sin, sickness, and death—is an illusion, and that correct spiritual insight can overcome these false beliefs.

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

While Scripture calls us to spiritual understanding, the Bible never teaches that physical sickness or death is unreal. Jesus healed actual physical illnesses and died a real bodily death.

Key Doctrinal Errors

1. Denial of the Reality of Sin and Sickness

Christian Science denies the objective reality of sin, disease, and death. These are viewed as mistaken beliefs rather than actual conditions.

▼ Departure:

The Bible affirms the reality of sin (Romans 3:23), the curse of death (Romans 5:12), and Jesus' role in bearing our sins (1 Peter 2:24). Denying sin undermines the gospel.

2. Rejection of the Atoning Death of Christ

Christian Scientists do not believe Jesus' death was a substitutionary sacrifice. Instead, they teach that Jesus was an example of overcoming error with truth.

▼ Departure:

The New Testament teaches that Christ died for our sins, fulfilling God's plan of redemption.

“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

3. **No Baptism or Lord’s Supper**

Christian Science has no baptism or Lord’s Supper. These are considered symbolic ideas, not necessary practices.

▼ **Departure:**

The New Testament commands both baptism (Acts 2:38) and communion (1 Corinthians 11:23–26) as essential parts of Christian worship.

4. **No Biblical Church Leadership**

The Christian Science church is governed by a self-perpetuating board. It has no elders or deacons as described in Scripture.

▼ **Departure:**

“To Titus I left you in Crete... that you should appoint elders in every city.” (Titus 1:5)

The Church of Scientology

The Church of Scientology, founded by science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, is not a Christian church in any biblical sense. Though it uses religious terminology and structures, its teachings and practices are entirely foreign to the gospel of Christ. A biblical comparison reveals that Scientology is a man-made religion built on philosophy, not divine revelation.

Origin and Beliefs

Founded in 1954, Scientology is based on Hubbard’s writings—particularly *Dianetics*. It teaches that humans are immortal spiritual beings called “thetans” who have forgotten their true nature. Through a process called “auditing,” individuals supposedly remove psychological barriers (engrams) to reach spiritual freedom and god-like power.

▼ *Departure:* The gospel is not a self-help program. Salvation is not found by unlocking hidden potential—but by submitting to Christ and receiving forgiveness through His blood (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:7).

Key Doctrinal Errors

1. A Man-Centered, Works-Based Salvation

Scientology teaches salvation through levels of self-improvement, knowledge, and spiritual enlightenment—achieved by following Hubbard’s writings and often paying for courses.

▼ *Departure:* The Bible teaches salvation by grace through faith, not self-work or financial investment (Ephesians 2:8–9; Acts 8:20–21).

2. Rejection of the One True God

Scientology avoids defining God in biblical terms. Some teachings imply a pantheistic or undefined view of divinity. The Bible affirms one eternal, personal God who created all things and revealed Himself through Christ (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1–3; 1 Timothy 2:5).

▼ *Departure:* Any system that rejects or redefines God is idolatry (Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 46:9).

3. Denial of Sin and the Cross

Sin is not part of Scientology’s vocabulary. Humans are not seen as sinners in need of salvation from God’s wrath, but as beings hindered by negative experiences and memories.

▼ *Departure:* The New Testament centers on sin, repentance, and redemption through Christ’s sacrifice (Romans 3:23–25; 1 John 1:7–9).

4. No Church Leadership Based on Scripture

Scientology has no biblical pattern of elders or spiritual shepherds. Instead, it is organized like a corporate hierarchy, with celebrity endorsement, paid status levels, and authoritarian control.

▼ *Departure:* The New Testament church is led by qualified elders and deacons who serve—not dominate (Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:2–3).

Conclusion: A Religion Without Christ

The Church of Scientology presents a spiritual system built on science fiction, psychology, and human effort. It bears no resemblance to the church Jesus built in the New Testament.

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men... and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

Scientology:

- Rejects Scripture
- Denies sin and the cross
- Promotes human exaltation over divine submission
- Builds on the writings of a man, not the Word of God

There is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ and His gospel (Acts 4:12). Scientology offers no gospel, no Savior, and no hope of eternal life.

Jehovah's Witnesses

The religious group known as **Jehovah's Witnesses** is well known for its door-to-door evangelism, distinctive literature (*The Watchtower* and *Awake!*), and rejection of many mainstream Christian doctrines. Though sincere and highly committed, Jehovah's Witnesses teach a system of beliefs that **significantly deviates from the gospel of Christ** and the church established in the New Testament.

Carefully examine their **origin, doctrine, and practices**, and compare them with the Scriptures.

Origin and Founding

Jehovah's Witnesses originated in the **1870s** under the leadership of **Charles Taze Russell**, who began a Bible study group that rejected many long-standing Christian doctrines. In 1884, Russell founded the **Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society**, which became the organizational foundation for the movement.

This group did not arise out of an effort to restore the New Testament church, but to promote Russell's interpretations of end-times prophecy, the nature of God, and the kingdom. They claim to be **God's exclusive organization on earth**, a belief that cannot be supported by the New Testament.

Yet Jesus said:

"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

The church Jesus built began in **Acts 2**—not in **Pennsylvania in the 19th century**—and it is made up of those who **obey the gospel**, not those who follow a publishing society.

Doctrinal Distinctions and Errors

1. Denial of the Deity of Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus is God. They believe He is **a created being, Michael the archangel**, and inferior to Jehovah (God the Father).

However, the Bible plainly teaches the **divinity of Christ**:

"In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9)

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever..." (Hebrews 1:8 – where the Father calls the Son "God")

To deny the full divinity of Jesus is to reject the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus claimed unity with the Father (John 10:30) and accepted worship (Matthew 28:9)—something no mere angel would do (Revelation 22:8–9).

2. Denial of the Resurrection and Physical Return of Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was **not physically raised** from the dead, but became a "spirit creature" after His crucifixion. They also believe His second coming occurred **invisibly in 1914**, and that His reign is now spiritual and organizational through their society.

But the apostles declared:

"He showed Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs... being seen by them during forty days..." (Acts 1:3)

"Behold My hands and My feet... handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (Luke 24:39)

"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner..." (Acts 1:11)

The resurrection of Christ was **bodily**, and His return will be **visible and unmistakable**. Any teaching to the contrary is a serious deviation from apostolic doctrine.

3. Denial of Eternal Punishment

Jehovah's Witnesses teach **annihilationism**—that the wicked will simply cease to exist, rather than suffer eternal punishment. But Jesus warned:

"These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)

"The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night..." (Revelation 14:11)

The same word used for "eternal life" is used for "eternal punishment." You cannot accept one and deny the other.

4. Rejection of Blood Transfusions, Military Service, and Celebrations

Jehovah's Witnesses also:

- Forbid **blood transfusions**, misapplying verses like Acts 15:29
- Reject **military service and patriotic ceremonies**
- Forbid **celebrating birthdays and religious holidays**

These rules are not rooted in apostolic teaching but in the interpretations of their governing body. They bind where God has not bound (cf. Matthew 15:9), elevating **man-made tradition** over biblical truth.

Salvation and Church Practices

Jehovah's Witnesses teach a **works-based salvation**, where entrance into God's kingdom depends on loyalty to the Watchtower organization, field service, and moral conduct—not on **obedient faith in Jesus Christ**.

But salvation comes by grace, through faith, in obedience to the gospel:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...” (Mark 16:16)

“Having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:9)

They also deny the existence of a **universal body of saved believers**, instead limiting the “anointed class” to 144,000 and teaching that others may hope only for life on a restored Earth.

The New Testament teaches that all saved people are added to **one body, the church**:

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Conclusion: Not the Church of the New Testament

Though devout and moral in appearance, Jehovah's Witnesses **deny essential truths**:

- The **deity** and **bodily resurrection** of Jesus
- The **gospel plan of salvation**
- The **authority and sufficiency** of Scripture

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.” (2 John 9)

“Let no one cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men...” (Colossians 2:8)

Their religion is built not on Christ but on the shifting foundation of human interpretation. The church of the New Testament is built on the unchanging Word of God, and its Lord is Jesus—**not a publishing society**.

Southern Baptist Church

Among Protestant denominations, the **Southern Baptist Church** stands out for its emphasis on **believer's baptism** and **local church autonomy**. These principles come closer to the New Testament pattern than many other groups. However, significant doctrinal departures—especially concerning the **role of baptism, the plan of salvation, and worship practices**—still set it apart from the church Jesus built.

Carefully explore the **origin, strengths, and differences** of the Southern Baptist Church in light of Scripture.

Origin and Historical Context

The **Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)** was officially formed in **1845**, when it split from northern Baptists primarily over the issue of slavery and missionary support. Today, it is the largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

Baptist churches, including the SBC, trace their heritage back to English Separatists in the 1600s who rejected infant baptism and emphasized **believer's baptism by immersion**. Over time, various Baptist groups emerged, each with their own associations, confessions of faith, and leadership structures.

However, it's important to remember that the church of the New Testament began in **Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)**, not in England or the American South. Any church that **did not originate in the first century**, under apostolic guidance and with Christ as its founder, **is not the church Jesus built**.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” (Psalm 127:1)

Strengths and Similarities to the New Testament Church

1. Believer's Baptism by Immersion

Southern Baptists correctly teach that baptism should be administered to **penitent believers**, and they practice **immersion**, which aligns with the biblical word *baptizō* (meaning to dip or immerse).

“So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:38)

“We were buried with Him through baptism into death...” (Romans 6:4)

This is a strong point of agreement with New Testament teaching. Baptism is not sprinkling or pouring—it is a burial, symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. Local Church Autonomy

Baptist congregations are **autonomous**—self-governed without a centralized denominational structure. This, too, resembles the **organizational structure of the New Testament church**, where each congregation was led by a **plurality of qualified elders** and was independent from other congregations.

“So when they had appointed elders in every church...” (Acts 14:23)

“The elders who are among you I exhort... Shepherd the flock of God which is among you...” (1 Peter 5:1–2)

While Baptists often refer to their ministers as “pastors,” the New Testament uses the term interchangeably with **elders** and **bishops**, always referring to multiple qualified men in a local body (Titus 1:5–9; 1 Timothy 3:1–7).

Key Differences from the New Testament Church

1. Baptism Not Taught as Essential for Salvation

While Southern Baptists practice immersion, they typically teach that baptism is **only an outward sign of an inward grace**—not essential to salvation. This contradicts the plain teaching of the New Testament.

Jesus said:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Peter said:

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38)

Ananias told Saul:

“Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

Baptism is **not a symbol of salvation already received**, but the **God-given point at which sins are washed away** and the sinner is united with Christ.

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

To teach that baptism is unnecessary or merely symbolic undermines its **God-ordained purpose** in the salvation process.

2. Salvation by “Faith Alone”

The Southern Baptist tradition often emphasizes **salvation by faith alone**, using phrases like “accept Jesus into your heart” or “pray the sinner’s prayer.” Yet, **none of these phrases appear in Scripture**.

James wrote:

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” (James 2:24)

Jesus taught obedience:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father...” (Matthew 7:21)

Faith is vital—but saving faith must act in obedience. That includes repentance, confession, and baptism.

“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:8–9)

3. Infrequent Observance of the Lord’s Supper

Many Baptist congregations observe the **Lord’s Supper monthly or quarterly**, viewing it as a memorial without a set schedule. However, the New Testament shows that the early church **came together on the first day of every week to break bread**:

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7)

This phrase, “came together,” implies a regular, intentional gathering, and “breaking bread” refers to the Lord’s Supper (cf. Acts 2:42). Like singing and praying, the Lord’s Supper is a **central element of Christian worship**—not an occasional ritual.

Conclusion: Close in Form, But Not in Foundation

The Southern Baptist Church shares some practices that resemble those of the New Testament church—especially baptism by immersion and local autonomy. However, the differences in core doctrine—particularly regarding **salvation, baptism’s purpose, and worship**—are significant.

A church may look close to the original in some ways, but if it **teaches another gospel**, it is not the church Jesus built.

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8)

Do not settle for a partial resemblance or a sincere imitation. return fully to the **New Testament pattern**, the **apostles’ doctrine**, and the **church Jesus built with His own blood** (Acts 20:28).

Conclusion: The New Testament Pattern Still Matters

Jesus built one church (Matthew 16:18), purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28), and revealed its doctrine through the apostles (Ephesians 2:20). That church still exists today—not in a denomination or modern invention, but wherever people follow the New Testament in teaching, practice, and purpose.

“Now I plead with you, brethren... that there be no divisions among you” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

One is not to follow churches built by men—but return to the church built by Christ. Speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where it is silent, and call Bible things by Bible names.

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated Time to Answer the Questions: 4 minutes; With Scripture Lookup: 15 minutes

Answer the following questions by circling True / False and Yes / No. Look up the scripture references given to determine the answers, or refer back to the discussion. An answer key with explanations of the correct answers is provided below.

Assemblies of God

1. Were the Assemblies of God founded in the first century along with the church in Acts 2? (Acts 2:47) — **Yes | No**
2. Do all Christians receive a second baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues? (1 Corinthians 12:29–30) — **True | False**
3. Is baptism merely symbolic and not necessary for salvation according to the New Testament? (Mark 16:16) — **True | False**

Christian Science

4. Does Christian Science deny that sin and sickness are objectively real? (Romans 3:23) — Yes | **No**
5. Did Jesus die as a sacrifice to take away sin, according to the New Testament? (1 John 1:7) — Yes | **No**
6. Does the New Testament teach that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are essential parts of the Christian faith? (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:26) — Yes | **No**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

7. Did Jesus promise that His church would never cease to exist or be overcome? (Matthew 16:18) — **True | False**
8. Is it acceptable to receive and follow new revelations or gospels after the New Testament was completed? (Galatians 1:8) — **True | False**
9. Does the Bible teach that humans can become gods just as God is? (Isaiah 46:9) — **Yes | No**

Church of Scientology

10. Does the Church of Scientology teach salvation through the blood of Christ and obedience to the gospel? (Ephesians 1:7) — **Yes | No**
11. Is salvation achieved through self-improvement, personal knowledge, and auditing rather than grace through faith? (Ephesians 2:8–9) — **True | False**
12. Does the Church of Scientology teach that sin is the problem separating man from God? (Romans 3:23) — **Yes | No**

Jehovah’s Witnesses

13. Do Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that Jesus is fully divine, equal with the Father? (John 1:1) — **True | False**
14. Did Jesus rise bodily from the dead according to the New Testament? (Luke 24:39) — **True | False**
15. Does the Bible teach that eternal punishment awaits the wicked, not annihilation? (Matthew 25:46) — **Yes | No**

Southern Baptist Church

16. Southern Baptists teach that baptism is essential to salvation. (Acts 2:38) — **True | False**
17. Baptist churches practice immersion for penitent believers, aligning with New Testament teaching. (Acts 8:38) — **True | False**
18. The New Testament church observed the Lord’s Supper quarterly or occasionally. (Acts 20:7) — **True | False**

Answer Key

Estimated Time to Read the Answers: 5 - 6 minutes; With Reflection and Contemplation: 8 - 12 minutes

Assemblies of God

1. Was the Assemblies of God founded in the first century along with the church in Acts 2? (Acts 2:47) — **No**
“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)
The New Testament church began in Acts 2, but the Assemblies of God started in 1914.
2. Do all Christians receive a second baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues? (1 Corinthians 12:29–30) — **False**
“Are all apostles?... Do all speak with tongues?” (1 Corinthians 12:29–30)
Not all Christians were given the gift of tongues, indicating it was not a universal or expected experience.
3. Is baptism merely symbolic and not necessary for salvation according to the New Testament? (Mark 16:16) — **False**
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...” (Mark 16:16)
Baptism is not symbolic only—it is essential to obedience and salvation.

Christian Science

4. Does Christian Science deny that sin and sickness are objectively real? (Romans 3:23) **Yes**
Romans 3:23 confirms the reality of sin; Christian Science denies this.
5. Did Jesus die as a sacrifice to take away sin, according to the New Testament? (1 John 1:7) **Yes**
1 John 1:7 affirms Jesus died for sin; Christian Science denies His atoning sacrifice.
6. Does the New Testament teach that baptism and the Lord's Supper are essential parts of the Christian faith? (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:26) **Yes**
Acts 2:38 and 1 Corinthians 11:26 both show baptism and communion were commanded by Christ and practiced by the church.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

7. Did Jesus promise that His church would never cease to exist or be overcome? (Matthew 16:18) — **True**
"...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)
Jesus guaranteed the endurance of His church; it didn't disappear and need restoration.
8. Is it acceptable to receive and follow new revelations or gospels after the New Testament was completed? (Galatians 1:8) — **False**
"But even if we... preach any other gospel... let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8)
The Bible warns against accepting later revelations that contradict the gospel.
9. Does the Bible teach that humans can become gods just as God is? (Isaiah 46:9) — **No**
"I am God... and there is none like Me." (Isaiah 46:9)
Scripture affirms God's uniqueness—man cannot become divine.

Church of Scientology

10. Does the Church of Scientology teach salvation through the blood of Christ and obedience to the gospel? (Ephesians 1:7) — **No**
"In Him we have redemption through His blood..." (Ephesians 1:7)
Scientology does not acknowledge Christ or His redemptive sacrifice.
11. Is salvation achieved through self-improvement, personal knowledge, and auditing rather than grace through faith? (Ephesians 2:8–9) — **False**
"For by grace you have been saved through faith... not of works..." (Ephesians 2:8–9)
Salvation comes by grace, not by self-help or earning it.
12. Does the Church of Scientology teach that sin is the problem separating man from God? (Romans 3:23) — **No**
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Scientology replaces the doctrine of sin with psychological terminology, contrary to Scripture.

Jehovah's Witnesses

13. Do Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is fully divine, equal with the Father? (John 1:1) — **False**
“...and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)
Jehovah's Witnesses deny Christ's full divinity, contradicting the plain teaching of Scripture.
14. Did Jesus rise bodily from the dead according to the New Testament? (Luke 24:39) — **True**
“...a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” (Luke 24:39)
Jesus rose with a physical body—not merely a spiritual form.
15. Does the Bible teach that eternal punishment awaits the wicked, not annihilation? (Matthew 25:46) — **Yes**
“These will go away into everlasting punishment...” (Matthew 25:46)
Punishment for the wicked is eternal, not temporary or symbolic.

Southern Baptist Church

16. Southern Baptists teach that baptism is essential to salvation. — **False**
“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized... for the remission of sins.” (Acts 2:38)
Though Baptists practice immersion, they often teach baptism is not necessary for salvation—contrary to Scripture.
17. Baptist churches practice immersion for penitent believers, aligning with New Testament teaching. — **True**
“So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water...” (Acts 8:38)
This practice is consistent with the biblical example and meaning of the word "baptize" (to immerse).
18. The New Testament church observed the Lord's Supper quarterly or occasionally. — **False**
“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7)
The early church observed the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, not sporadically.
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