

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION  
SESSION 25 – CULTS PART 14  
SCIENTOLOGY

**The Church of Scientology** draws from Eastern philosophy, modern psychology, occult practices, and science fiction. Founder L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986) defined Scientology as “the Western anglicized continuance of many earlier forms of wisdom” including the Vedas, Taoism, Buddhism, Judaism, Gnosticism, early Greek civilization and the teachings of Jesus, Nietzsche, and Freud. According to Hubbard, “Scientology has accomplished the goal of religion expressed in all Man’s written history, the freeing of the soul by wisdom.”

According to the organization’s official Web site ([Scientology.org](http://Scientology.org)), “The word Scientology literally means ‘the study of truth.’ It comes from the Latin word ‘scio’ meaning ‘knowing in the fullest sense of the word’ and the Greek word ‘logos’ meaning ‘study of.’ Scientology is the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, others and all of life.”

Scientology proclaims certain fundamental truths. Among them: “Man is an immortal, spiritual being. His experience extends well beyond a single lifetime. His capabilities are unlimited, even if not presently realized – and those capabilities *can* be realized. He is able to not only solve his own problems, accomplish his goals and gain lasting happiness, but also achieve new, higher states of awareness and ability” ([Scientology.org](http://Scientology.org)).

Scientology does not claim to be a Christian organization, so it doesn’t fit into our definition of a [cult](#). A cult is defined as a religious organization whose members claim to be Christians, and who use the Bible and Christian terms, yet who deny the central beliefs of historical Christianity. Still, Scientologists would say their religion is compatible with Christianity. The church has no clear definition of the nature or person of God. Scientology literature rarely refers to a supreme being but occasionally uses the terms “Eighth Dynamic” or “infinity” and vaguely embraces pantheism (God is all; all is God).

### **Purpose**

Scientology seeks to release human potential, free the soul, and restore people to their original state as pure, immortal spirits. Within every human being is a *Thetan*, an eternal spirit in bondage to matter. Through Scientology, *Thetans* may be freed, returning to the glorious spiritual beings they once were.

## Source of authority

L. Ron Hubbard is the founder of Scientology. Hubbard was born March 13, 1911, and died January 24, 1986. He began studying the mind in 1923. A prolific writer, he described his beliefs in more than 5,000 writings, including dozens of books and roughly 3,000 recorded lectures. The organization officially dubs his writings "scripture" and claims they are the only source for solving mankind's problems. Among his best-known works are *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*; *Dianetics Today*; and *The Church of Scientology*.

**Headquarters:** Los Angeles

**Origins:** The first Scientology church was formed in Los Angeles in 1954.

**Membership:** Less than 1 million worldwide.

**Doctrines:** Man is primarily a spiritual force. He is called Thetan. A Thetan is the person himself; that is, his identity makes him aware of himself which is separate from mind and body. Man is, by nature, good. God exists but is different for different people. Good is constructive action and thought. Evil is destructive action and thought. The Church of Scientology accepts reincarnation. There are 8 dynamics or urges that influence people: self, sex and family, groups, mankind, living things, the universe, spirits, and the Supreme Being. There are three universes: the first is one's own universe, the second is the material universe and all that is in it, and the third is the group of all universes of all other people.

**Practices:** Hubbard teaches in Dianetics that there are two parts to the human mind. One is the analytical mind; the other is the reactive mind. The analytical mind is our thinking processes, logic, and memory. This is our conscious mind. The reactive mind is where memories of intense pain and suffering are stored. This is our unconscious mind which 'takes over' during traumatic episodes. The reactive mind records everything that happens and forms so-called "Engrams." Anything associated with the trauma can induce the ill effects of that trauma. For example, if a person is knocked unconscious in an auto accident, and while unconscious a train passes by, the negative engram of the passing train can later trigger ill effects even long after physical healing. Dianetics claims to be able to cure a person's negative engrams not only in this life, but also in past lives.

The process of removing these engrams is called "auditing." It is the application of Dianetic principles by a trained person. Primarily, this process involves asking various questions and receiving a response from the one being audited. Additionally, an E-Meter is used to aid the auditor in discovering engrams. E-meter is short for electro psychometer. This device is, basically, a lie detector that registers physical reactions to various questions.

---

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION  
SESSION 25 – CULTS PART 14 – SCIENTOLOGY

1: <https://carm.org/scientology>

2: excerpts from Kingdom of the Cults, Walter Martin Copyright 1975

3: <https://onedelivered.net/2008/03/06/the-church-of-scientology/>

The goal of Dianetics is to achieve "Clear." Clear is the state of development attained through auditing where a person is no longer affected by the reactive mind. He has no engrams. Supposedly, someone who has attained the state of Clear is happier, healthier, more productive, better socially, more able to enjoy life, and is more mentally stable.

The path to Clear is called The Bridge, which is development of knowledge in the principles of Dianetics, as well as achieving Dianetic goals. The progress is measured on a Classification Gradation and Awareness Chart. This process is expensive and costs range in the thousands of dollars.

Operating Thetan is a state above Clear. It is a place of mental and spiritual health where the person is in control of himself and can cause positive effects upon himself and thought, life, matter, time, and space.

2The ***Thetan*** (spirit) has some amazing characteristics, according to Hubbard. It is more than eighty trillion years old and dwells somewhere within the skull of an individual (L. Ron Hubbard, *Scientology: The Fundamentals of Thought* ((Los Angeles: Church of Scientology Publications Organization, 1972)). When the individual organism dies, the Thetan reports to an implant station (one is on Mars) before being shot down to earth. This is the "between lives area. Here he 'reports in', is given a strong forgetter implant, and is then shot down to a body just before it is born. Thetans have been known to fight other Thetans over inhabiting a body. They communicate by telepathy, move objects by kinetics, and travel at high rates of speed. Thetans can be packed in ice and frozen, or they may be dumped into the ocean from a flying saucer.) This, Hubbard assures us, "is quite authentic." Hubbard also taught a Darwinian form of evolution for man. This information is laid out in in his book "Scientology: A History of Man."

Hubbard often roots the problem for today's Scientologist in the ***engrams*** collected from past lives. Many common problems that produce engrams also result from past lives according to Hubbard. In his book he states that the first stage of life is the Photon Converter, which converted light into energy as its main function. The Photon Converter had nothing to do at night, therefore our need for sleep. Following this stage came the jelly fish, but the jelly fish got tired of being pressed against stones, so it compensated by forming a shell and became a clam. The clam had two hinges that would fight over which one would open or close, and this caused engrams. Later, in man's evolution these hinges became man's jaws. Hubbard continued with the evolution chain stating that engrams develop and cause sickness and disease because of the problems man had in each stage.

## The Biblical view of man's origin

The Biblical view of man's origin does not include evolution, where great difficulties arise due to the lack of transitional fossils, spontaneous generation, and cross breeding of species. Each life-form has its origin in God's creative works outlined in Genesis, chapter one. Specifically, man and woman were created to reflect God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27), which separates man from beasts. Due to man's fall from his righteous state, in Genesis, chapter three, all humanity has inherited a sinful nature like Adam's (Romans 5:12). This has resulted in the evil of the world around us.

Hubbard disagreed with the bible at this point and is quoted as saying "It is despicable and utterly beneath contempt to tell a man he must repent, that he is evil." Yet Jesus did just that. He told men to repent and said that they were evil (Matthew 4:17; 7:11).

**Miscellaneous Information:** Some adherents sign a billion-year contract to show their commitment to Scientology practices. There are ministers who have been trained in the Scientology's Minister Course. All auditors are ministers or ministerial candidates. Field Staff members are people who communicate the teachings of Scientology to others. They use 'free personality tests' as a means of recruitment. The organization claims to take in 1 million dollars a week through its church system and psychological examination programs.

**Publications:** *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* by L. Ron Hubbard, first published in 1950; *Child Dianetics*; *Science of Survival*; a Management Series; and much more.

**Comments:** Scientology is a religious organization that is definitely non-Christian. It denies the essential doctrines of Christianity including the necessity of the atoning work of Christ, His redemptive sacrifice, His deity, judgment, heaven, hell, and the true nature of God. From a Christian standpoint, it is dangerous. It is a man-made religious and philosophical system that can easily take control of a person's will and substitutes biblical truth with Hubbard's philosophical presuppositions. It uses non-verifiable theological beliefs. Additionally, the Scientology group has shown to be very aggressive, using lawsuits regularly and freely.

Some of Hollywood's brightest stars, and other prominent figures, are dedicated followers of the religion founded by science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard: Scientology.

Is Scientology Christian? Decidedly not. We cannot recommend that anyone join this organization.