

## ORIGIN OF SCIENTOLOGY

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1. Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, born in Tilden, Nebraska in 1911, was an American author of science fiction and fantasy stories. In 1950, Hubbard authored a book entitled *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* and established a series of organizations to promote Dianetics. In 1952, Hubbard lost the rights to Dianetics in bankruptcy proceedings, and he subsequently founded Scientology.
2. **Dianetics** (from the Greek *dia*, meaning "through", and *nous*, meaning "mind") is a set of ideas and practices regarding the metaphysical relationship between the mind and body. Dianetics is practiced by followers of Scientology, the Nation of Islam (as of 2010), and other independent groups. Dianetics divides the mind into three parts:

A) the conscious "analytical mind"

B) the subconscious "reactive mind"

C) the somatic mind "pertaining to the body"

The goal of Dianetics is to erase the content of the "reactive mind", which Scientologists believe interferes with a person's ethics, awareness, happiness, and sanity.

1. As Hubbard oversaw the growth of the Church of Scientology into a worldwide organization, he was cited by Smithsonian magazine as one of the 100 most significant Americans of all time. Hubbard died in 1986.

## BELIEFS/PRACTICES OF SCIENTOLOGY

1. The Church of Scientology says that a human is an immortal, spirit being they refer to as the *thetan*. The thetan is a resident in a physical body. The thetan has had innumerable past lives and it is observed in advanced Scientology texts that lives preceding the thetan's arrival on Earth were lived in extraterrestrial cultures. According to the Church, founder L. Ron Hubbard's discovery of the thetan places Scientology at the heart of the human quest for meaning, and proves that "its origins are as ancient as religious thought itself." According to the doctrine, "one does not have a thetan, he/she is a thetan."
2. The Church of Scientology believes that "Man is basically good, that he is seeking to survive, (and) that his survival depends on himself and his attainment of brotherhood with the universe," as stated in the Creed of the Church of Scientology.
3. The Church of Scientology states that it has no set dogma on God and allows individuals to come to their own understanding of God. In Scientology, "vastly more emphasis is given to the godlike nature of the person and to the workings of the human mind than to the nature of God." Hubbard did not clearly define God in Scientology. Scientologists affirm the existence of a deity without

defining or describing its nature. Instead of defining God, members assert that reaching higher states of enlightenment will enable individuals to make their own conclusions about the Supreme Being.

4. The church considers itself scientific, although this belief has no basis in institutional science. Scientologists believe that "*all religious claims can be verified through experimentation*". Scientologists believe that their religion was derived through scientific methods; that Hubbard found knowledge through studying and thinking, not through revelation.
5. The means by which Scientologists undertake personal development is metaphorically referred to as **The Bridge to Total Freedom**. Processing is the actual practice of *auditing*. **Auditing** is a process whereby the auditor takes an individual through times in their life and claims to get rid of any past or current negative situations that may have hold on them. This process is supposed to bring greater happiness, intelligence and success.
6. According to Scientology doctrine, salvation is achieved through "clearing" through the auditing process. Salvation is limited to the current life and there is no final salvation or damnation. Scientology believes in the "immortality of each individual's spirit,". At death, the spirit acquires another body necessary for growth and survival. Scientologists do not typically dwell on Heaven or Hell or the afterlife, instead focusing on the spirit. Many Scientologists also belong to other churches.

### CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO SCIENTOLOGY

1. There has been perpetual tension between religion and science; to which Scientology has attempted to resolve. To believe that all religious claims can be verified through scientific experimentation is a declaration that makes science the religion. However: religion, by its very nature, appeals to higher, metaphysical powers for the answers to life over and beyond natural systems. Moreover: science provides answers to the natural world, but it does not provide answers to morality, emotion & cognition; all of which steer our actions. As a matter of fact: **it is not possible to answer spiritual issues through scientific methods**. Humanity (*and all of the dynamics that accompany humanity*) is not 'scientific'. [Job 32:8]
2. Based on Scientology, a deity exists but is not active, defined, nor altogether necessary in our world today; for science answers all things. This position can only be taken by denying God a will (*choice*), a voice (*revelation*), & interaction (*miracles*) in our world. There are many evidences in our world, both historic and current, that attest to divine intervention in our reality to which science can not deny nor explain. [Is 55:8-11/Rom 11:33-36]
3. Scientology believes that we have previous lives but not an ultimate life. In other words, it is believed that we keep living and dying (a form of reincarnation) instead of dying one time and living forever thereafter.

