

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.

So far we have looked at Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Seventh-day Adventists, Unification Church, Christian Scientist, and Unity School of Christianity.

Scientology:

Founder: L. Ron Hubbard (1911 – 1986)

Date: 1954

Location: California

Followers: Scientologists

Key Writings: Dianetics; The Modern Science of mental Health; The way to Happiness; "In July of 1952, L. Ron Hubbard became the first to scientifically isolate, measure and describe the human spirit, while objectively demonstrating spiritual potentials well in advance of scientific thought." (L. Ron Hubbard bio)

Who is God?: Hubbard does not define God or a supreme Being, but he rejects the biblical description of God. Everyone is a "thetan," an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, but not all people are aware of their powers.

Who is Jesus?: Jesus is not really a part of this religion. He is rarely mentioned. Jesus was not the Creator or God, nor was he an "operating thetan" (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for our sins.

Who is the Holy Spirit?: The Holy Spirit is not part of Scientology.

How to be Saved: There is no sin, so no need to repent. Salvation is freedom from reincarnation. One must work with an "auditor" on his "engrams" (negative experience units) to achieve the state of "clear." One then progresses up the "bridge to total freedom" to a higher "Operating Thetan" status and eventually control over all matter, energy, space, and time (MEST).

What happens after Death?: “Hell is a myth, and heaven is a ‘false dream’.”

Other facts, beliefs, and practices.

1. Members celebrate L. Ron Hubbard’s birthday and the anniversary of the publication of the book “Dianetics.”
2. They are not free from controversy; Time published a damaging expose` and so did reader’s digest.
3. Organizations related to Scientology are Narconon, Criminon, Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE (World Institute of Scientology Enterprises), Hubbard College of Administration, Applied Scholastics.
4. “Man is a spiritual being endowed with abilities well beyond those which he normally envisions. He is not only able to solve his own problems, accomplish his goals and gain lasting happiness, but he can achieve new states of awareness he may never have dreamed possible.”
5. “In Scientology no one is asked to accept anything as belief or on faith. That which is true for you is what you have observed to be true.”
6. “In contrast, Scientology is the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, universes and other life. Based upon the tradition of *50 thousand years of thinking men*, it is built upon the fundamental truths of life.”
7. 20 rules to be a good Scientologists.
As a Scientologist, I pledge myself to the Code of Scientology for the good of all.
 1. To keep Scientologists, the public and the press accurately informed concerning Scientology, the world of mental health and society.
 2. To use the best I know of Scientology to the best of my ability to help my family, friends, groups and the world.
 3. To refuse to accept for processing and to refuse to accept money from any preclear or group I feel I cannot honestly help.
 4. To decry and do all I can to abolish any and all abuses against life and Mankind.
 5. To expose and help abolish any and all physically damaging practices in the field of mental health.
 6. To help clean up and keep clean the field of mental health.
 7. To bring about an atmosphere of safety and security in the field of

mental health by eradicating its abuses and brutality.

8. To support true humanitarian endeavors in the fields of human rights.

9. To embrace the policy of equal justice for all.

10. To work for freedom of speech in the world.

11. To actively decry the suppression of knowledge, wisdom, philosophy or data which would help Mankind.

12. To support the freedom of religion.

13. To help Scientology orgs and groups ally themselves with public groups.

14. To teach Scientology at a level it can be understood and used by the recipients.

15. To stress the freedom to use Scientology as a philosophy in all its applications and variations in the humanities.

16. To insist upon standard and unvaried Scientology as an applied activity in ethics, processing and administration in Scientology organizations.

17. To take my share of responsibility for the impact of Scientology upon the world.

18. To increase the numbers and strength of Scientology over the world.

19. To set an example of the effectiveness and wisdom of Scientology.

20. To make this world a saner, better place.