
THE CULT OF SCIENTOLOGY

THE FOUNDER OF SCIENTOLOGY. L. Ron Hubbard is described in a 20 page Scientology advertisement as a world traveler, writer, philosopher, explorer, educator, administrator, artist, etc. The author of a Readers Digest article (May 1980) disputes many of his claims. In his earlier days he was largely a fiction writer and the above advertisement says his fiction books have totaled 24 million in sales. He made a number of trips to eastern nations and Eastern thought is quite evident in his teachings. This system originally began as a philosophy rather than a religion. His plan for the betterment of man was called Dianetics and was first popularized in his book “Dianetics, The Modern Science of Mental Health.” This was first published around 1950 and gave him some notoriety. However, a few years later things were not going too well and it was at this time that Hubbard formed the Church of Scientology and it was so registered in 1954 in the State of California as a religious organization. Today they claim to have 600 churches and mission groups in the world.

SOME BASIC TENETS OF SCIENTOLOGY. It is clearly a mixture of Hubbard’s philosophies and Eastern religious thought. Many of the Eastern religions teach that each person is either a divinity or that a divine spirit to some degree indwells everyone. Therefore, the essential thing is to find out how to realize this good spiritual force. Even the distorted modernistic branch of Christendom promotes the idea that each one has within him a divine spark which can be fanned into a flame making the person good and useful to God and man. Dianetics is supposed to be a science whereby trained individuals using a special “E-meter” could find a person’s negative traits. Once they are pin-pointed the individual, through instruction in Scientology, can begin to eliminate them and thus become all that the “god” within him can be. Of course, we should mention that all of this costs money. According to some who have left the system, plenty of money.

A UNIVERSAL ERROR. Just about anywhere you look, except in the Bible, you will find the idea that man is basically good. Of course, that is what man wants to believe: Man is not lost, he is just misdirected. This philosophy removes any fear of judgment; man simply will not own the truth that he is basically evil and therefore judgment is his due. That same heresy underlies Scientology and the whole scheme involves merely straightening out that which is bent. Along with this you inevitably have the thought that one is able to attain his own salvation. This runs through all religions and indeed most of Christendom presents this philosophy in a variety of forms. How many times have I heard someone say that

you have to “work out your own salvation?” By that, they mean you must work **for** your salvation, which is a perversion of Scripture.

IT IS ANOTHER FORM OF EXISTENTIALISM. If you read religious periodicals or theological writings, you will come across that word quite often. Existentialism simply means that which you personally experience is real and that is all there is to truth. Mr. Hubbard said, “Anything that isn’t true for you when you study it carefully isn’t true.” (What is Scientology? – Church of Scientology of California, Publications Organization, 1978, p. 205). Now what sinner would not like to believe that? It is a very popular belief (Christendom is riddled with it), for it allows every individual to be his own god and his own bible. He accepts whatever he wishes and rejects that which he does not like. It is self belief and self help at its best. In fact, on the cover of Hubbard’s book Dianetics it says, “America’s #1 Self Help Best Seller.”

THE FOUNDER’S TEACHINGS ARE SUPREME. This is like all of the other cults. To the Mormon, Joseph Smith’s writings are exalted over the Bible. It is the same with Christian Science, Jehovah’s Witnesses, etc. Some who have come out of Scientology tell us of the way followers are brainwashed by the leadership and how they are insulated from outside material. One man who investigated this cult said it is a “voluntary system of brainwashing.” (Scientology: The New Religion, Delta Books). The Readers Digest article mentioned earlier says, “Scientology is one of the oldest, wealthiest, and most dangerous of the major ‘new religions’ or cults operating in America today.” While Mr. Hubbard is put off as a great innovator (those of us who believe the Word of God don’t want an “innovator”, for there is no new truth) it seems to me he has just borrowed here and there and added his own wording or twist. The advertisement booklet I mentioned earlier speaks of “Mr. Hubbard’s tenets: Set a good example for others, Seek to live with truth, Don’t do anything illegal, Be worthy of trust, Fulfill your obligations.” Then listen to the punch line: “Such a non-religious moral code had never been created before.” Every one of those things can be found in Scripture. Incidentally, if it is non-religious, why do they call it a Church?

SOME OBVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS. It is clear that one cannot be a follower of Hubbard and at the same time a true disciple of Jesus Christ. You cannot believe the Bible and Scientology. The Bible knows nothing of the innate goodness of man; it teaches just the opposite. “AS IT IS WRITTEN, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE:

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THERE IS NONE THAT UNDERSTANDETH, THERE IS NONE THAT SEEKETH AFTER GOD. THEY ARE ALL GONE OUT OF THE WAY, THEY ARE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE; THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD, NO, NOT ONE.” (Romans 3:10-12). The Old Testament is equally clear: “ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.” (Isaiah 53:6). The Scripture over and over again depicts man as a sinner and helplessly lost. Furthermore, there is not one thing he can do to save himself. You can readily distinguish the teaching of man from that of God on this basis. Invariably man will tell you that you must do something to be saved while God simply says that all we can do and must do is believe that Christ died for our sins and rose again. “FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.” (Ephesians 2:8-9) “NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US...” (Titus 3:5). As for truth being relative, nothing could be further from the Bible doctrine of truth. Pilate asked, “What is truth?” Jesus answered him nothing but in another place He said, “THY WORD IS TRUTH.” (John 17:17). It was truth then and it is truth now and a million years from now it will still be the truth. Whether man likes it or not, sooner or later he is going to go by God’s rules, not his own. One of the great problems of our day is the lack of authority. Even Jesus’ enemies marveled that He spoke as one having authority. If we do not have truth and authority somewhere, we are like a ship at sea without a rudder or compass. Little wonder that the one word that best describes our times is confusion. The one who really trusts Christ does not have that problem; he has both the power and direction to get safely to the desired haven.

TESTIMONY OF FORMER SCIENTOLOGY LEADER. Andrea Schwartz describes herself as one who went to a Catholic school for twelve years and got excellent grades throughout. She then went on to college but while still in school came in touch with this cult. She was so taken up with it that she quit school and before long she was a leader in the Washington, DC Church of Scientology. Even then, the courses were very expensive and she had to borrow money to pay for them. As she became more involved, she was induced to sever all relationships with her own father, being told that he was the primary source of her troubles. Soon she was successful in signing up a considerable number of others. She testified that she

would induce people to get into the cult at all costs. She said, “I became well versed in the techniques of inducing people to hand over their worldly possessions (bank accounts, homes, trust funds, insurance policies, etc.) so they could have eternal happiness Scientology and Hubbard professed to offer.”

SOON DISILLUSIONMENT SET IN. However, she was not too happy herself as time went on. She wrote, “I also felt guilty because I was promising people happiness and self-assurance but was progressively feeling less and less happy and self-assured myself.” She also stated, “...I became more exposed to the inner workings of the church and I began to be aware of the sham of its pretended ministry to “save” humanity. The dollar reigned higher than anything else.” Furthermore, she testified that she was on the verge of a nervous breakdown while at the same time supposedly offering light to those who were in the dark. She and her husband brought many things to the higher authorities in that church but to no avail. While all of this was going on, the leaders tried unsuccessfully to have her husband divorce her and stay within the church. Confused and depressed, both she and her husband left Scientology.

ONE PLACE TO FIND PEACE AND ETERNAL LIFE. All religions and cults make great promises. Sometimes there may be a semblance of success and peace of mind for a time. However, because they are man-made systems, they cannot provide lasting peace and eternal life. There is only one place: CHRIST. And the only place you can find out about Him and how to have eternal life is in the Word of God. Jesus said, “I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.” He said, “My peace I give unto you...” If you ever come to Christ as a needy, guilty sinner and you put your faith in Him, not yourself or another, you will have “THE PEACE OF GOD THAT PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING.” He is the Prince of Peace and you simply cannot have true peace without Him. The false religions and cults are long on promises but very short on performance. Why is it people fall for these “new” religions? Well’ most people are looking for peace and satisfaction in life. Man has a religious side or nature. After all, he was made in the image of God—albeit that image has been shattered. But the old adage is true: “If it is true, it is not new; and if it is new, it is not true.” Believe the old Gospel. There is only one! “Christ died for our sins.” “BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED.”

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