

Cults

Week 26

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Fellowship Bible Church

notes and other materials available at:
<http://cults.sohmer.net>

The Church of Scientology

a.k.a.

Scientology

Overview:

Founder: Lafayette Ron Hubbard
(L. Ron Hubbard)

**Founding
Date:** 1953

**Official
Publications:** Scientology produces scores of publications. A short list includes *Source*, *The Delphian*, *Advance!*, *The Auditor*, and the main textbook, *Dianetics*.

History:

- 1911: L. Ron Hubbard born in Tilden, Nebraska.
- 1931: Dropped out of George Washington University while on academic probation, and with a failing grade in Physics. Later received PhD in Physics from Sequoia University, which was a mail-order diploma mill.
- 1930's: Success as a science fiction writer.
- WWII: Alleged Naval combat career, but records prove otherwise.

Wikipedia; L. Ron Hubbard, http://en.wikipedia.org/wik/L_Ron_Hubbard
What Scientology Won't Tell You: A Brief History Of The Church Of Scientology, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/infopack/8.htm>

History:

1950: *Dianetics* published.

1951: NJ Board of Medical Examiners brought proceedings against Hubbard for practicing medicine without a license.

1954: Church of Scientology started.

1956: Church granted Federal tax exempt status.

1960's: "Ethics" procedures: harsh punishments even for children. "Disconnection policy," which requires Scientologists to sever ties with family and friends critical of Scientology. "Upper levels" developed.

Wikipedia; L. Ron Hubbard, http://en.wikipedia.org/wik/L_Ron_Hubbard
What Scientology Won't Tell You: A Brief History Of The Church Of Scientology, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/infopack/8.htm>

History:

1966: "Guardian's Office" established. Private Intelligence arm that ran operations against officials/agencies/individuals the church identified as a threat.

GO agents "stole medical files, sent out anonymous smear letters, framed critics for criminal acts, blackmailed, bugged and burgled opponents, and infiltrated government offices stealing thousands of files... Critics were to be driven to breakdown or harassed into silence."
(Richard Behar, "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power," *Time Magazine*, 1991)

Wikipedia; L. Ron Hubbard, http://en.wikipedia.org/wik/L_Ron_Hubbard
What Scientology Won't Tell You: A Brief History Of The Church Of Scientology, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/infopack/8.htm>

History:

1967: IRS stripped church of tax exempt status.

1967: Hubbard bought 3 ships and called himself "The Commodore." He was attended to by teenage girls called "Commodore's Messengers" who bathed, dressed, and served him.

Late 60's: Began elite "Sea Organization" of followers. SO members signed "billion year contracts" and agreed to have abortions if pregnant because children interfere with their obligations.

Wikipedia; L. Ron Hubbard, http://en.wikipedia.org/wik/L_Ron_Hubbard
What Scientology Won't Tell You: A Brief History Of The Church Of Scientology, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/infopack/8.htm>

History:

1971: A federal court ruled in 1971 that Hubbard's medical claims were bogus and that E-meter auditing could no longer be called a scientific treatment. Hubbard responded by going fully religious, seeking First Amendment protection for Scientology's strange rites. His counselors started sporting clerical collars. Chapels were built, franchises became "missions," fees became "fixed donations," and Hubbard's comic-book cosmology became "sacred scriptures."

Richard Behar, "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power," *Time Magazine*, May 6, 1991, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/media/time910605.html>

History:

early 80's: 11 GO agents, including Hubbard's wife, were imprisoned for bugging and burgling government offices. Dubbed "Operation Snow White." 21-year-old David Miscavige takes control while Hubbard went into seclusion.

1986: L. Ron Hubbard Dies.

1993: CoS and IRS reached agreement. CoS would regain tax-exempt status, and would pay fraction of owed back taxes.

Wikipedia; L. Ron Hubbard, http://en.wikipedia.org/wik/L_Ron_Hubbard
What Scientology Won't Tell You: A Brief History Of The Church Of Scientology, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/infopack/8.htm>

How We Got Here:

75 million years ago, there was an alien galactic ruler named *Xenu*. Xenu was in charge of all the planets in this part of the galaxy including our own planet Earth, except in those days it was called *Teegeeack*.

All of the 76 planets under his control were overpopulated.

So Xenu tricked all the inhabitants and drugged them. he then sent them via rocketships to Earth and stacked the hundreds of billions of them by the bases of volcanoes. Then he detonated nuclear bombs in the volcanoes and everyone was killed.

Who is Xenu?

<http://www.xenu.net/archive/leaflet/xenuleaf.htm>

How We Got Here:

Xenu then caught all the souls by a special beam and packed them into boxes. The souls were then shown a confusing movie saying they were God, the Devil, and Christ. This is called "implanting."

Since the souls all saw the same film, they thought they were the same person, and many of them stuck together. They clustered into groups of a few thousand. They inhabited the few bodies available.

Who is Xenu?

<http://www.xenu.net/archive/leaflet/xenuleaf.htm>

How We Got Here:

Xenu was eventually overthrown and is kept alive today on one of his planets kept captive by a force field powered by an eternal battery.

Everyone today is full of these "body *thetans*" and to be a free soul, we need to remove all these thetans. The Church of Scientology sells this service to you.

And the only reason people believe in God and Christ is because it was in the film their body thetans saw 75 million years ago.

Who is Xenu?

<http://www.xenu.net/archive/leaflet/xenuleaf.htm>

How We Got Here:

"This story is the core belief in the religion known as Scientology. If people knew about this story then most people would never get involved in it. This story is told to you when you reach one of their secret levels called OT III. After that you are supposed to telepathically communicate with these body thetans to make them go away. You have to pay a lot of money to get to this level and do this (or you have to work very hard for the organization on extremely low pay for many years)."

Who is Xenu?

<http://www.xenu.net/archive/leaflet/xenuleaf.htm>

Beliefs

Scientology assumes that spirituality and thought (called "theta") is an energy existing in its own universe, separate and distinct from the physical universe of Matter, Energy, Space and Time (MEST), and that spirit (theta) is senior to, and indeed created, the physical universe (MEST).

Each individual person (called a "thetan") is considered to be a "thought unit" of the spiritual universe which interacts with the physical universe (MEST), usually by inhabiting a human body. The Scientology term "thetan" is what has commonly been known as the "spirit" and it is defined in Scientology as the source of life; in the individual, it is recognized as the core of personality or essence of oneself, quite distinct and separate from the physical body or the brain.

Beliefs

Scientology proposes that in its "native state" the spirit/thetan is immortal and god-like and possesses the potentiality of knowing everything, but that in present time its true capabilities have been lost and forgotten. As an immortal entity, the spirit/thetan lives on after body death and is born into a new physical body, again and again, lifetime after lifetime, in an endless cycle of birth and death. As a result of traumatic incidents extending back from the present life through a long series of "past lifetimes" hidden from conscious memory, the spirit/thetan has become trapped in the physical body and the physical/MEST universe.

Beliefs

According to *Dianetic* theory, the mind is composed of mental image pictures of every event in a person's life. Memories, or pictures, of painful events from the past containing pain or unconsciousness are known in Dianetics as "engrams." By recalling and "erasing" these memories a person can be restored to perfect physical and mental health and analytical functioning. A person whose engrams have all been erased is called a "Clear."

...By 1954, Hubbard had "discovered" that in order to be truly "clear," a person also had to erase all the engrams from his hundreds of past lives. The new science of Scientology was founded and organized as a religion to incorporate this belief.

Beliefs

[Engrams] may influence a person's current life, causing physical and mental illnesses, irrational thoughts and acting-out behavior, and limiting one's creativity and other abilities. Scientology claims that these traumatic incidents, along with each spirit/thetan's personal history, are recorded in complete detail on the "time track," sometimes called the "whole track," which for each person is many trillions of years in length. Scientology proposes that through a process called "auditing" that uses techniques developed by Hubbard (often assisted by a device called the E-Meter), an individual can be guided to find and "discharge" these hidden traumas, thus escaping the suffering and limitations imposed by the past.

Beliefs

Further, as one progresses through a series of auditing "levels," one can eventually be restored to native state and can attain the status of "operating thetan," wherein one is free of attachments to the body and, even while "exterior" to (outside) the body, one can consciously control matter, energy, space, time, thought, and life. Hubbard's writings and lectures include many tantalizing details of the god-like abilities that may be gained through auditing.

Beliefs

For most individual Scientologists, recovering these god-like abilities (and encouraging and assisting others to do so as well) is the primary goal of participation in Scientology. The "levels" through which a participant progresses make up what is called "The Bridge to Total Freedom." Progress through all the levels of the "Bridge" often takes many years of dedicated study and practice, and the cost in fees for services for the Bridge is currently estimated at approximately \$300,000 - \$500,000 in US dollars.

Beliefs

Death in Scientology is known as "dropping the body." According to Scientology theory, when a person dies, he (the thetan, or spirit) has been pre-programmed to "return" to an "implant station" out in space. In the implant station, the thetan will have all memories from the most recent lifetime electronically erased, and then the thetan will be sent back to earth to "pick up a new body," or start another life.

Beliefs

But Scientology promises that with auditing, the person can erase this "return command" so that he will never again have to return to an implant station after death. He will then be a "free being," able to drop his body and pick up a new body with full consciousness and self-determinism.

Scientists therefore believe that they are very ancient beings, with memories that reach millions of years into the past, and that they are inherently immortal, once the impediments to immortality -- the engrams -- have been erased.

Scientists believe that they can become gods.

Beliefs

Founded in 1954, Scientology is a religion without a deity. It teaches that "spiritual release and freedom" from life's problems can be achieved through one-on-one counseling called auditing, during which members' responses are monitored on an "e-meter," similar to a polygraph. This process, along with a series of training courses, can cost Scientologists many tens of thousands of dollars.

Claire Hoffman and Kim Christensen, *Tom Cruise and Scientology*
<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-scientology18dec18,0,2963052.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

The Bridge to Enlightenment

The following is a sample of the levels in Scientology:

1. Personality Test: Free. True/False/Maybe test to see if you need Scientology. Everyone does.
2. Communication Courses: \$250 each. Several courses that involve repetitive exercises that pacify the customer.
3. Regular Auditing, Grades 0-4: \$500/hour. Indefinite amount of time. Teaches you to communicate effectively, become free from past guilt, and shed psychosomatic ills.

The Bridge to Enlightenment

4. New Era Dianetics: \$500/hour. Indefinite amount of time. Auditing your life and past lives. At graduation, you are "Clear."
5. Clear Certainty Rundown: \$2,800. Course to determine if you're really "clear."
6. Operating Thetan 1-2: \$7,978. Taught about ideas implanted in man 75 million years ago.
7. Operating Thetan 3-4: \$17,000. Study the story of Xenu. Also, get free from drug abuse in past lives.
8. Operating Thetan 5-7: \$25,600. Find and release body thetans that have been in you for millions of years.

The Bridge to Enlightenment

9. Operating Thetan 8: \$11,140, plus accommodations. The ultimate answer to everything. There are no known defectors at this level, so no one is sure what is taught here. It is rumored that the answer is that Hubbard is God. Class is only offered on Scientology's yacht.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

RD: What does Scientology offer that [other] religions didn't?

Cruise: First of all, there are Baptist Scientologists, other Christian Scientologists. Scientology is an applied religious philosophy. You learn tools that you can apply to your life.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

**Can you be a Christian
Scientologist?**

Scientology vs. Christianity:

For those of you whose Christian toes I may have stepped on, let me take the opportunity to disabuse you of some lovely myths. For instance, the historic Jesus was not nearly the sainted figure (he) has been made out to be. In addition to being a lover of young boys and men, he was given to uncontrollable bursts of temper and hatred.... You have only to look at the history his teachings inspired to see where it all inevitably leads. It is historic fact and yet man still clings to the ideal, so deep and insidious is the biologic implanting....

Scientology vs. Christianity:

No doubt you are familiar with the Revelations section of the Bible where various events are predicted. Also mentioned is a brief period of time in which the arch-enemy of Christ, referred to as the anti-Christ, will reign and his opinions will have sway... this anti-Christ represents the forces of Lucifer (literally, the "light-bearer" or "light-bringer"), Lucifer being a mythical representation of the forces of enlightenment... My mission could be said to fulfill the Biblical promise represented by this brief anti-Christ period.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

You will find the cross as a symbol all over the universe, and the **Christ legend** as implant in preclears a million years ago.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

And the parables of Gautama Buddha were re-expressed with some differences and additions to spread westward again as Christianity.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

Somebody somewhere on this planet, back about 600 BC, found some pieces of R6, and I don't know how they found it, either by watching madmen or something, but since that time they have used it and it became what is known as Christianity.

The man on the Cross. There was no Christ. But the man on the cross is shown as Everyman.

[Editor's Note: "R6" is alien mind implant.]

Scientology vs. Christianity:

1. **Authority**: Although the Bible is used to bolster up the sect's ideas, the source of Scientology's philosophy and technology is Hubbard himself...
2. **God**: Although Hubbard and many of his followers are theists, belief in God is not essential to Scientology...

Scientology vs. Christianity:

3. **Christ**: Christ has no essential or central place in the sect's teachings...
4. **Salvation**: Man is basically good, but "engrams" (psychological hang-ups) prevent him from reaching his full potential. When released from these engrams through the sect's techniques, man begins to live on a higher level in terms of his own human achievement.

Scientology vs. Christianity:

In fact, there is no compatibility between Scientology and Christianity. As a belief system based on satanic principles, Scientology is diametrically opposed to Christianity. The truth is that you cannot be both a Christian and a Scientologist.

Emotional Blackmail:

The Scientology auditor also carefully records any intimate revelations, including sexual or criminal activities or marital or family troubles. According to the church's own documents and defectors' affidavits, such records are filed for blackmail purposes against any member (or member's family) who becomes a "potential trouble source" by threatening to defect, go to the authorities, or generate hostile publicity.

Cult Awareness Network:

According to the Cult Awareness Network, whose 23 chapters monitor more than 200 "mind control" cults, no group prompts more telephone pleas for help than does Scientology. Says Cynthia Kisser, the network's Chicago-based executive director: "Scientology is quite likely the most ruthless, the most classically terroristic, the most litigious and the most lucrative cult the country has ever seen. No cult extracts more money from its members."

Richard Behar, "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power," *Time Magazine*, May 6, 1991, <http://www.xenu.net/archive/media/time910605.html>

Cult Awareness Network:

Guess what happened to the Cult Awareness Network?

It was bought-out by the Church of Scientology!

Cult Awareness Network:

Starting in 1991, CAN was forced to fend off some 50 civil suits filed by Scientologists around the country, many of them asserting carbon copy claims and many pressed by the same law firm, Los Angeles's Bowles & Moxon. Scientologists also filed dozens of discrimination complaints against CAN with state human rights commissions nationwide, requiring the services of still more lawyers. The avalanche of litigation staggered the network. By 1994 CAN, which ran on a budget of about \$300,000 a year, had been dumped by its insurers and owed tens of thousands of dollars to attorneys.

Scientology Strike Back? Cult Awareness Network Is Now Crime Syndicate
<http://www.skeptictank.org/moxon.htm>

Cult Awareness Network:

After driving the Cult Awareness Network to bankruptcy, a Scientologist attorney appeared in bankruptcy court and managed to win the bidding for what remained of the organization. The 'Cult Awareness Network' is now one of the hundreds of front companies run by the Church of Scientology.

Dan Knapp, *Group that Once Criticized Scientologists Now Owned by One*,
CNN, December 19, 1996
<http://www.cnn.com/US/9612/19/scientology/>

Celebrity Scientologists:

Some well-known Scientologists:

- Tom Cruise
- Cruise's converted fiancé Katie Holmes
- John Travolta
- Kelly Preston
- Kirstie Alley
- Jerry Seinfeld (former)
- Chick Corea
- Lisa Marie Presley
- Greta Van Susteren

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

I wouldn't listen to anyone who tried to dissuade me from Scientology. I kept myself from reading critical news articles or viewing television shows. I never read critical books. I thought it was all lies anyway. I would have defended Scientology to the death.

So there are a few things you don't want to do when talking to a Scientologist.

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

Don't talk to them about the weird stuff. Most Scientologists don't know about it and are trained in the idea that finding out about it too soon will kill them. So just leave that entirely alone. It may freak you out and you may want to share it, but they will think it is a personal attack.

Don't tell them it is not a religion. A Scientologist will instantly tune you out the moment you say that. After all they have subjective experience that is to them completely spiritual and religious in nature. To assert it isn't is to be calling them a liar and denying their own experience.

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

Don't tell them Hubbard was a con-man and a fraud and a bigamist and that almost nothing he said about himself was true. A Scientologist can't believe that because he has been told that such statements are all lies. That the documents that show these things are fabrications by a shadowy conspiracy to destroy L. Ron Hubbard and Scientology and thus deny people the total freedom Scientology offers.

You're in a he-said she-said situation. In fact, without careful research you might be presenting false information that the church has put on the 'net just so they can show their members how false it all is. So a Scientologist will be sure you are now a tool of the conspiracy, out to destroy Scientology. And they will not listen.

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

It is the internal conflicts I experienced within Scientology that broke the spell for me. So if I were now talking to a Scientologist, I would talk to them about these things:

Get them to explain about the powers of an operating thetan, the higher levels in Scientology. And then ask them if they knew of people on those levels getting sick or getting cancer or dying or just leaving the church. Get them to think how the reality they observe differs from what is promised. Even for people who have been in Scientology for years. Tell them you are confused; if these magnificent powers existed, how then could critics of the church continue to write or even to exist? Couldn't a top level Scientologist just wish them away?

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

Get them to describe the ideals of Scientology ethics and justice and how Scientologists are supposed to be honest and straightforward. Find out if they know any Scientologists who won't pay back loans, who have trouble with paying their rent, who have done a lot of Scientology but still seem shady or involved in schemes. If they have been around awhile, they will know some or will have heard of many such things.

Get them to explain "having to have before you can do" and have them tell you about what Scientologists are told they need to do to before management releases the next "O.T." levels. Then wonder, if it is so important that these levels be done to ensure the hope of the future, why are there things that have to be done first?

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

Find out if they experienced the misapplication of Scientology justice themselves. Get them to talk about it.

Find out what they think about Hubbard's writings being revised over 15 years after his death. Does it make sense to them?

Testimony of a Former Scientologist:

See if they will talk about their feelings that it is "just them" having trouble, but that Scientology really is good. It is very common for people to go for decades wondering privately why they are not getting the promised gains from Scientology while outwardly defending it to the death.

These kinds of questions and getting them to think about what they experienced and observed as compared to what they are taught and led to believe are a key to breaking the kind of spell they are under.

Start a Religion For Money?:

Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion.

Start a Religion For Money?:

Did Hubbard REALLY say that?

There is evidence on both sides, so since it is a he-said, she-said situation, I believe it is best to avoid talking about this with Scientologists. They will clearly believe Hubbard never said that.

It's best to stick to the essentials: Scientology conflicts with the truth of the Bible.

The Religion of ME!:

Scientology is all about enhancing your life to make yourself powerful.

This is in stark contrast to Biblical Christianity which is all about God's glory, even at the expense of self.

Jesus said: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35).

The Religion of ME!:

I became involved in Dianetics – because it worked... I have a wonderful child and a great marriage because I apply L. Ron Hubbard's technology to this area of my life... I would say that Scientology put me into the big time." (John Travolta, actor)

"Having achieved the state of Clear is the single most important thing that I've done for myself. It has allowed me to experience life in a way I only imagined." (Juliette Lewis, actress)

The Religion of ME!:

"My study of Scientology has also enabled me to write more music... Scientology has helped me to live better... From Scientology I've gotten a freedom to learn whatever I want to learn in life and I'm gaining new abilities all the time."
(Chick Corea, composer)

"After I became a Scientologist my abilities expanded so far above what I originally dreamed for myself that I've amazed even myself at my enormous increase of abilities." (Nancy Cartwright, actress)

The Religion of ME!:

Let this be a lesson to us not to do evangelism in this self-centered manner.

"He must increase, but I must decrease"
(John 3:30)

It's about God's glory – not our self-enhancement.

For more on this, I HIGHLY recommend "Hell's Best Kept Secret" by Ray Comfort, which you can download at:
<http://www.sohmer.net/media/hbks.mp3>

Overview:

Scientology Teaches:

- Galactic Ruler Xenu murdered all inhabitants of the planets under his control 75 million years ago
- Xenu caught the souls and implanted false memories via a movie
- The Souls clustered together to form "thetans"
- All people on Earth are inhabited by many "Body Thetans" tormented by our "engrams"
- The Church of Scientology offers "auditing" to allow you to become "clear."

Overview:

Scientology Teaches:

- The Thetan is immortal, but collects more negative engrams life after life, trapping the Thetan in the physical universe.
- Jesus was given to uncontrollable bursts of temper and hatred, and he was a lover of young boys.
- The "Christ figure" is a legend.
- Christianity is an extension of Buddhism.
- The Bible is not God's revealed Word.
- L. Ron Hubbard and the Church of Scientology is the true authority.
- The God of the Bible does not exist.

Tips on Witnessing to a Scientologist:

Don't Bring Up the Weird Stuff:

- Resist this temptation
- Lower-level members don't know about it anyway

Don't Deny it is a Religion:

- They will likely tune you out

Don't Smear Hubbard's Character:

- They will defend his character
- They will consider you part of a "conspiracy"

Tips on Witnessing to a Scientologist:

Focus on Internal Conflicts:

- Any higher level people getting sick/cancer/dying?
- Why can't high-level members wish away critics?

Focus on Ethics and Ideals:

- Do they know Scientologists who are dishonest or shady?

Talk about the differences between what they are taught and what they experience.

Tips on Witnessing to a Scientologist:

Why Were Hubbard's Writings Revised Over 15 Years After His Death?

Show That You Care and Are There For Them.

Remember How They See the Bible:

- unreliable
- untrustworthy

Stress that God exists and we have sinned against the only Holy God:

- Romans 3:23

Tips on Witnessing to a Scientologist:

Use the 10 Commandments to show that our problem is not "engrams" but the coming judgment of God!

- Acts 17:31

Stress that they are following another gospel:

- Galatians 1:8

The Word of God is powerful:

- God will use His Word to change hearts

Tips on Witnessing to a Scientologist:

Be nice!

- And of some have compassion, making a difference (Jude 22)

Be firm!

- And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (Jude 23)
- Jesus held false religious leaders to a higher standard

Resources:

(no particular order)

The Watchmen Fellowship - <http://watchman.org/>

Eugene H. Methvin, "Scientology: Anatomy of a Frightening Cult," Reader's Digest, May 1980,
<http://www.skeptictank.org/readdig.htm>

Richard Behar, "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power," *Time Magazine*, 1991

Margery Wakefield, *What Christians Need to Know about Scientology*, <http://tinyurl.com/b5loh>

Resources:

(no particular order)

<http://www.xenu.net>

<http://www.truthaboutscientology.com>

<http://www.scientologywatch.org>

<http://www.scientology-lies.com>

<http://www.altreligionscientology.org>

The Secrets of Scientology –

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/Secrets/>

Notes and Files from this class – <http://cults.sohmer.net>