

8 Scientology

The Church of Scientology is a very controversial religion founded by science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard in Washington, D.C. in 1954. According to its own definition it *Scientology* is an *applied religious philosophy* that aims at exploring the *Terra Incognita* of the human mind in order to “clear” the soul of its negative energies. It is an outgrowth of Hubbard’s earlier psychological theories of *Dianetics*, documented in his 1948 book *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, which offer an alternative path to overcoming physical and mental stress. *Dianetics* means “pertaining to reasoning” and expresses that the reasoning of man should be used to rectify his past and to determine his future.

As an advance over his theory of *Dianetics*, Hubbard later elaborated a theory attributing mental aberrations to *engrams*, that is prenatal impressions accumulated by the soul during past lives. Mixing ideas from Buddhist and Hindu religious philosophy, science fiction, and 20th-century Western concepts in psychology and science, Hubbard produced a religion that sees all human beings as immortal spirits, so-called *Thetans*, who have forgotten their identity and became deceived by the very universe they mentally emanated in order to amuse themselves. *Scientology* claims it can free the Thetan to realize his or her true nature and powers through through an expensive therapy called *processing* that neutralizes the engrams and thus heals the mind.

Scientology claims to be the fastest growing religion with more that 15 million members in 65 countries. While it is not clear whether these numbers are exaggerated or not, *Scientology*, whose headquarters are now in Los Angeles, is certainly one of the wealthiest new religions with a lot of support. Celebrities such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, and Sonny Bono are only a few of the Hollywood faithful who actively endorse Scientology. In contrast to most cults, *Scientology* has not been weakened after the death of its founder in 1986, but has become very powerful in recent years.

But *Scientology* also has been criticized right from its beginnings. The method of *Scientology* was challenged by the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association already during the 1950s. In the 1960s, the governments of England, Australia, and the United States opened investigations into church activities, particularly for suspected practices of tax evasion. Since the early 1970 charges have been brought up against *the Church of Scientology* for psychological coercion of followers and organized smear campaigns orchestrated against critics of the church. In its September 1981 issue, Reader’s Digest even went so far to describe *Scientology* as a *multi-national racket masquerading as religion*. Most European governments do not recognize the religious status of *Scientology*, largely because of many court decisions that found *Scientology* to be a business rather than a religion. Some of them, like Belgium and Germany go even further and classify *Scientology* as a dangerous cult that needs to be observed by the government.

Thus, over the years, *Scientology* has become an extremely dangerous cult not so much because of its religious teachings but because of its almost criminal practices. For us, this may not be the main issue but you can't really talk about *Scientology* without mentioning its "non-religious" practices.

It is interesting to notice that *Scientology* draws its members mostly from the Christian-educated middle class. The *The Church of Scientology* claims that its beliefs are not incompatible with the Christian faith and many people seem to get into *Scientology* because they initially view it as unusual, but successful self-improvement technique that does not affect their religious beliefs. However, an evaluation of what *Scientology* teaches in the areas of God, man, creation, salvation, and death proves that *Scientology* is inconsistent with the beliefs of orthodox Christian faith.

8.1 Major Doctrines – where are the differences?

Despite its use of quasi-religious vocabulary *Scientology* does not really have anything that could be called a theology. Critics suspect that clerical terms like *spiritual*, *God*, and *church* mainly serve the purpose of tax evasion. *Scientology's* concept of God is vague and it does not say anything about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, sin, or salvation. Worship is totally unknown to *Scientology*. *Scientology* has its rituals for marriage, christening, and funerals. None of these rituals, however, include prayer or any reference to God. As a matter of fact, *Scientology* has distinguished teachings about man and his soul, previous existences, prenatal influences, and future lives that clearly show the influence of Eastern mysticism.

Scientology divides the human mind into two components - the *analytic* and the *reactive* mind. Experiences of extreme shock, pain, or unconsciousness cause *engrams*, or sensory impressions, to be recorded in the reactive mind. These mental pictures are, in turn, the cause of our emotional and even many physical problems today. They lay dormant in the brain until re-stimulated by a similar incident. When re-stimulated, they cause conditioned, stimulus-response behavior which is counterproductive to one's well-being. *Scientology* believes this re-stimulation is fairly automatic. In other words, we are not free beings: we are slaves of an *aberrated* reactive mind.

Scientology teaches that through therapy, we can be directly exposed to our engrams, erase them, and become *clear*, that is in control of our behavior. Unfortunately, however, we have all been accumulating engrams for trillions of years, which makes the procedure more complicated and this is why one can only become clear through the method of *Scientology*.

According to *Scientology*, each person is really a *Thetan*, an immortal spirit that has existed since all of eternity. Thetans have absolute control over their bodies, but, sadly, they think they are bodies and hence are bound by the MEST (matter, energy, space, time) universe. Each time a body dies, the Thetan must enter another body, but this brings with it all its trillions of years' accumulation of engrams. Thetans thus

are no longer free, but are in bondage to the material universe.

Scientology claims it can resolve all hidden engrams by helping people to re-experience the damaging events of this life and of the past lives as well. The initiate may eventually achieve a state of *clear* and then, by progressing through numerous levels of *Operating Thetan (OT)*, increasingly achieve self-realization and resume his initial powers.

8.1.1 Sources of Authority – anything but the Bible?

Scientology does not have a source of authority that is open for everybody to review. The Bible certainly does not play any role in *Scientology*. Hubbard's book *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* may be considered as one of the foundations of *Scientology* but it does not give a clear picture of *Scientology's* teachings.

The true source of authority for the Scientologists are the many courses and auditing services offered by the *Church of Scientology*. These courses are protected by copyrights, which according to *Scientology* is necessary to avoid that people work with material for which they are not yet spiritually mature enough. The true reason is, of course, to keep people from going over the material without paying the horrendous prices (\$5,600.- per course) and to prevent them from analyzing its teachings before they are already committed. Nevertheless much of the material has leaked into the public through former members, which subsequently were dragged into copyright lawsuits and now publish the material on their web-sites with a lot of legal disclaimers.

8.1.2 God

Scientology's concept of God is vague. What the church refers to as *the Supreme Being* is purposely left undefined and not particularly relevant in *Scientology* theory or practice. It is variously implied to be, or referred to as, *Nature, Infinity, the Eighth Dynamic, all Theta*, and so forth. Usually the individual Scientologist is free to interpret God in whatever manner he or she wishes, which shall avoid that prospective followers will see any conflicts with their own religion.

A closer look, however, reveals that *Scientology* teaches the existence of a multitude of *Thetans* who collectively could be said to comprise the Supreme Being. According to *Scientology* these Thetans were the ones who created the universe trillions of years ago, because they got bored and needed something to play in and amuse themselves. To be precise, they emanated *mental* universes. So the universe as we see it is merely an agreed-upon reality, just a game or illusion – but not an actual reality.

So *Scientology* is fundamentally pantheistic and in sharp contradiction to the biblical teaching that there is only one sovereign and perfect Creator God from all eternity – without beginning or end, immutable, who exists in three Persons, and is infinitely holy, just, and loving (see e.g., **Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 43:10-11, 61:8; Malachi 3:6; Acts 5:3-4; 1. Timothy 2:5; Titus 2:13; 1. John 4:8-10**). *Scientology's* teachings

leave no space for God, since this would render their costly therapies superfluous.

8.1.3 Jesus Christ & The Holy Spirit

Scientology does not have any specific teachings about Jesus Christ or The Holy Spirit. Hubbard rejected Christ's deity and mission as figments of unenlightened minds.

Neither Lord Buddha nor Jesus Christ were Operating Thetans according to evidence. They were just a shade above clear.

So, for Hubbard, Jesus is just average, equal to the many thousand Scientologists who reach the lower spiritual levels of *Scientology* and the highest levels produced by *Scientology's* technique are far superior to Jesus Christ.

8.1.4 Man

Scientology's doctrine about man is the one supporting pillar upon which everything else rests. Every important teaching in *Scientology* is predicated on the existence of Thetans and the status Hubbard has given them.

Scientology maintains that in his true nature, man is not the limited and pitiful body and ego he mistakenly imagines himself to be. He is a Thetan, a spiritual and immortal being whose fundamental nature is basically *good and divine*. He is *not morally fallen*; rather he is simply ignorant of his own perfection. His only "Fall" was into matter, not into sin, which does not exist.

How did this Fall come about?

Apparently, trillions of years ago Thetans became bored, so they emanated mental universes to play in and amuse themselves. Soon, however, they became more and more entranced in their own creation until they lost all awareness of their true identity and spiritual nature. They became hypnotized and trapped by matter, energy, space, time. Adding to the problem was the accumulation of endless *engrams*, that is mental pictures of extreme experiences, throughout trillions of years of existence. The final result was a pitiful creature – a materially enslaved entity existing as a mere stimulus-response machine. Today only slavery to the reactive mind and bondage to the the physical body and environment are what remain of once glorious spiritual beings.

Thus, the *person* in *Scientology* is a a spiritual being of infinite creative potential who acts in, but *is not part of*, the physical universe. He is the innate source of his own projected universe, which overlaps the created universes of other Thetans in a great community of souls. Death is endlessly repeatable through reincarnation and is hence almost inconsequential. Death, however, is at least potentially beneficial in that it may permit the release of the soul from the prison of the body.

This teaching strong resembles the concept of the *Atman* in Hinduism. As in Hinduism, man is considered a deity who has forgotten he is divine. Like Hinduism, *Scientology* aims at helping man to overcome the past and find his way back into the Infinite, the One Reality. However, it seeks to shortcut the law of *Karma*, the

age-long process of balancing previous lives, by neutralizing the original wrong. This method takes much less time and is much less demanding than the ancient methods of ascetism and meditation – but it costs more and is more damaging to the human mind.

The Bible clearly rejects the idea that man is an ignorant god who needs only enlightenment or self-realization. There is only one eternal God in the universe (Isaiah 43:10–11) who created man (body and spirit) as a *finite* creature at a point in time (**Genesis 2:7**). Hence it is impossible that divine beings such as *Scientology*'s Thetans can exist. Man's problems do not result from engrams or boredom, but from sin and self-centeredness (**Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3**). Death is a one-time event that leads to an irreversible fate for both the saved and the lost and thus human beings have one lifetime only to make their peace with God (**Matthew 25:46; Luke 26:19–31; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:10–15**).

Biblically then, *Scientology*'s philosophy, techniques, solutions to problems, and final goals are based upon underlying presuppositions that are inherently incorrect.

8.1.5 Sin & Salvation

In his book *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* Hubbard writes that his philosophy “*is not interested in saving man, but it can do much to prevent him from being saved.*” Since there is no sin, and evil is only the outcome of engrams, mankind does not need an atonement for sin, but a therapy that neutralizes the engrams. This therapy is only offered by *the Church of Scientology*. In other words, salvation is in Ron Hubbard alone. However, it is not faith that is required, but a procedure called *auditing*, which guides the seeker, or the *pre-clear*, through increasing stages of self-awareness first to a state of being *clear* from engrams.

It all begins with a free *Personality Test* (now even offered on the Web), probably the most famous *Scientology* sales tool. It consists of about 200 questions that shall help the *pre-clear* to identify the source of his difficulties. Not surprisingly, the test *always* identifies one or another character flaw that *Scientology* can cure. So those who evaluate the test for you will advise you to take some *Scientology* courses to improve your communication skills or similar.

Scientology processing is offered in blocks of 12.5 hours, known as intensives, and involves both *auditing* and *courses*. *Scientology* claims that auditing is similar to Catholic confession. A *pre-clear* meets with an *auditor* in a private counseling session. The auditor shall direct the seeker back along his personal track to contract and relive the moments of emotion, pain, and unconscious thought that were recorded in the reactive mind. He probes back through previous lives and, if necessary, to the basic event that started the chain of damaging engrams and prohibits self-realization. For this purpose he uses an Electro-psychometer, briefly *E-meter*, that operates like a crude lie detector and shall reveal the engrams while the *pre-clear* answers the

auditor's questions. When the engrams are revealed and presumably confessed, then – according to *Scientology* teaching – they are automatically erased and cannot harass the Thetan any longer. This procedure continues until all engrams are erased and the seeker is pronounced *clear*. It should be noticed, however, that *Scientology* keeps records of all the personal secrets revealed during the process and often makes use of that information in case of defection.

The status of a clear, which is reached by thousands of scientologists, however, marks only the beginning of *Scientology* processing. Further course now guide the clear through numerous levels of “*Operating Thetan*” back to the original Thetan abilities that he once had. The first OT levels increase the Thetan's awareness by sharpening his powers of observation. OT III contains the “*creation story*” of *Scientology* and the bizarre story of an evil galactic space tyrant named *Xenu*, who 75 million years ago brought the Thetans to Earth and turned them into the pitiful, materially enslaved creature that now has to exist as a mere stimulus-response machine. The higher OT levels are primarily aimed at re-attaining our previous God-like state. At these levels you have to pass security checks and are required to renounce your previous faith. A former OT VII member has sworn an affidavit regarding how *Scientology* attempted to forcibly de-program his belief in Christianity.

After level OT VIII, which is reached only by very few scientologists, you can take Life Orientation courses in order to be admitted to level OT IX and OT X. These two levels will not be released until all organizations worldwide have reached a certain size, which means that you have to go out and make new scientologists.

The *Church of Scientology* is absolutely rabid about protecting the secrecy of its higher OT levels through copyright and trade secret law. Nevertheless, some material has leaked into the public through former members or discussions in the internet newsgroups (e.g. `alt.religion.scientology`). Since the material is constantly reworked, it is somewhat difficult to analyze what is actually been taught at these levels.

However, it is quite obvious that the teachings are in sharp contrast to biblical Christianity. Salvation is a free gift. One is redeemed from sin on the principle of grace, simply through faith in Christ's atonement (**John 6:47; Ephesians 2:8–9; Hebrews 11:1; 1. John 2:2**) and it does not require special knowledge (*Scientology* courses) or works (*Scientology* auditing etc.) to arrive at spiritual salvation.

It should be noted, that *Scientology* processing comes at a horrendous price. The first courses are cheap in order to lure people into becoming members of the cult. But once you are in, the prices go sky high. According to a detailed list of all the courses you have to take, one has to pay \$365,000 in order to advance through OT VIII – and this assumes that you have to take each course only once. At these rates, only the idle rich can afford spiritual salvation, while in Christianity it is for free.

8.1.6 Things to come

Scientology does not have any specific teachings about future events. It teaches that we will eventually receive back all of our original Thetan powers and in a ways become one with the “all Theta”, but it does not describe and specific events that will take place in the process. There is no concept of heaven or hell as in Christianity.

8.1.7 Summary

One may observe that *Scientology* does entertain a fine goal in attempting to improve the world and man’s lot within it, whether materially or spiritually. This is what makes it so attractive for some people in the beginning, particularly because it claims to be compatible with the Christian faith. Many practitioners are dedicated and selfless in seeking such ends. Nevertheless, each Scientologist must weigh the scales of his or her own conscience to determine the best manner in which to achieve such goals. If man is not a Thetan as *Scientology* claims, but a fallen being in need of redemption as Christianity teaches, what will have been the fruit of a lifetime of work?

For the Christian, it is quite obvious that *Scientology* is not just a self-improvement technique that is compatible with the Christian faith. Christianity is based on our faith in God the Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit. *Scientology* is a mixture of Science Fiction, Hinduism, and modern philosophy that denies every aspect of the Christian faith and is in no way compatible with it. Scientologists must eventually renounce their Christian faith to reach *Scientology*’s highest levels. *Scientology* knowingly lies to low-level Scientologists about this fact.

But even from the scientific, psychological viewpoint *Scientology* is more than questionable. Hubbard always claimed that *Scientology* is a proven science that is rational and utilizes scientific principles. But Hubbard has no scientific background and his research methodology is unreliable. In fact, his own son claims that for his bestseller *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* he did no research at all. He just took bits and pieces from other people, put them together, and mixed in a lot of fantasy. Furthermore, researchers who have examined the *E-meter*, the only “scientific” instrument in *Scientology* allegedly capable of producing data, have concluded that none of the *Scientology* theories associated with it are in any way justified.

Given these facts one might assume that *Scientology* draws its members only from among the simple minded and non-religious people. But polls have shown that 47% of the scientologists claim to be Christians who still practice their faith, and 80% are middle class or higher, often with college education. The Christian church has not yet recognized the risk *Scientology* poses to its own members who do not recognize that being a Scientologist is inconsistent with the Christian faith. But you cannot serve God and participate in *Scientology* at the same time.

8.2 Special Aspects

Religious deception and false teachings are not the only dangers of the *Church of Scientology*. Even from a worldly perspective it has to be considered one of the most most dangerous and ruthless cults, which has little to do with a religion as one would usually understand this. Some critics went even so far to call it *multi-national racket masquerading as religion*. One cannot really talk about *Scientology* without discussing these non-religious aspects.

8.2.1 A business under the Cover of Religion

The question whether *Scientology* is a religion or not has been disputed since the founding of the so-called *Church of Scientology*. Ron Hubbard is widely rumored to have said *The way to make a million dollars is to start a religion* and the results have proven him right.

Until 1993, the Internal Revenue Service – like almost all European countries – has denied *Scientology* tax-exempt status as a charitable organization, because it was dubious about the fact that a small religious enterprise could make more than 100 million dollars per year and that 90% of this money came from *fees*, not from donations. *Where* the money goes, was also controversial. When Hubbard was alive, he was reported to have received 10% of all the fees collected by *Scientology* centers and to have deposited as much as a \$500 million in Swiss bank accounts.

The sudden and secret 1993 capitulation to *Scientology* by the IRS provoked bewildered suspicion for many, especially in view of the history of litigation between the two parties. After a legal challenge by *Scientology*, a 1984 U.S. tax court decision upheld the IRS. The court found that *Scientology's* continued operation was for a substantial commercial purpose, and it was “*founded for the primary purpose of gaining tax-exempt status to serve the financial goals of other, non-exempt entities*”. The decision was upheld by the U.S. Appeals Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider it only one year before the IRS reversal.

The 1993 IRS decision to grant *Scientology* tax exempt status in spite of all this evidence of criminal activity by the church remains a mystery - a mystery deepened by its decision to seal the negotiation and any record of the agreement. But Tax Analysts, a taxpayer lobby, filed a lawsuit to force disclosure, which surfaced some amazing information.

In the early 1990's *Scientology* undertook investigations and inquiries into the lives of IRS employees, and engaged in public relations campaigns against the IRS. In 1993, *Scientology* leader David Miscavage and fellow Scientologist Marty Rathburn, just dropped in at the IRS headquarters, with no appointment, and were allowed to see the head of the IRS, Commissioner Fred Goldberg. After that meeting Mr. Goldberg created a special committee to negotiate a settlement with *Scientology* outside normal agency procedures.

According to Tax Analysts, the specialists who were to review *Scientology's* new application for tax exemption were instructed by the negotiations committee they were to verify only that the correct forms were all completed properly. They were not to evaluate whether the information submitted on the forms actually qualified *Scientology* to tax exemption as a religious organization. It appears that decision had already been made by the negotiating committee before the final forms were ever submitted.

8.2.2 Abuse of Followers and Harassment of Critics

Scientology is not a *turn-the-other-cheek* religion. Quite the contrary, it follows the directive that anything is permissible which advances the goals of *Scientology*. Statements such as “*Never fear to hurt another in a just cause*” and “*To punish to the fullest extent of my power anyone misusing or degrading Scientology to harmful ends*” characterize the ethics of *Scientology*. This makes it the antithesis of Christianity, which follows Paul’s guidelines in **Romans 8:32**:

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Scientology has a long and well-documented history of

- using deception to recruit people into taking a multitude of expensive “counseling” courses in order to be rid of “aberrations” from present and past lives, which cost them between \$200,000 and \$400,000 over their lifetime.
- subjecting followers to involuntary servitude, hard labor in “rehabilitation” camps.
- applying processing techniques that harm the mental health of its followers and result in hallucinations and irrational behavior, severe disorientation, strange bodily sensations, physical and mental illness, unconsciousness, and suicide.

A great number of *Scientology* associated suicides or attempted suicides is documented on various websites.

- psychological coercion of followers, resulting in losses of marriages, family relationships, possessions, sanity, and life.
- attempting to forcibly de-program a member’s belief in Christianity during security checks for higher OT levels.
- holding people against their will unless they comply with more *Scientology* processing, and telling them that they would commit suicide or harm their children if they didn’t take more expensive *Scientology* courses.
- keeping records of a member’s personal secrets revealed during the auditing process and using this material for blackmail purposes in case of defection.

But *Scientology* does not stop at abusing its followers. It also has a “*fair game*” policy of subjecting critics, former and defecting members to slander, harassment, intimidation, and lawsuits.

- A 1977 FBI raid on *Scientology* headquarters produced comprehensive evidence of stolen government documents, spies planted in the IRS and Justice Department, planted bugging devices, and 48,000 documents detailing smear campaigns orchestrated against critics of the church.

Scientology has plotted to destroy enemies by framing them for bomb threats, hit-and-run accidents, and other crimes.

- One of the attacks uncovered was carried out against Paulette Cooper, author of the 1972 book, *The Scandal of Scientology*. Scientologists smeared Cooper’s reputation, then framed her for a felony. Using stationary she had touched, which therefore contained her fingerprints, they forged a bomb threat against the Church.
- Another “attack and destroy” campaign uncovered by the FBI was carried out against the then mayor of Clearwater, Florida, Gabe Cazares. Documents revealed that “*Scientology* agents staged a fake hit-and-run accident” against Cazares and later tricked him into using the services of an undercover Scientologist as attorney in a lawsuit against Scientology. From this undercover position the attorney provided inside information to Scientology, and gained access to sensitive files in the State Attorney General’s office, “which was conducting an investigation of the local *Scientology* organization”.
- In 1986, Larry Wollersheim won a \$30 million jury verdict in compensatory and punitive damages against the *Church of Scientology*. The courts found that *Scientology* was guilty of intentional and negligent infliction of severe emotional harm. They wrote “*The policy of fair game, by its nature, was intended to punish the person who dared to leave the Church. Here, the church actively encouraged its members to destroy Wollersheim’s business. Further, by physically restraining Wollersheim from leaving the Church’s ship, and subjecting him to further auditing despite his protests, the Church ignored Wollersheim’s emotional state and callously compelled him to continue in a practice known to cause him emotional distress.*”
- The British biographer Russell Miller, who wrote a quite revealing book, *Bare Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard*, was sued by *Scientology* in Great Britain and the United States. *Scientology* also hired their chief “private investigator”, Eugene Ingram, to discredit him. Miller soon found himself being questioned by the police as a suspect for a murder because of an anonymous tip-off from someone who used an extensive knowledge of Miller’s work and private life to try to frame him. (Sunday Times, October 25, 1987)

- In 1992 the Church of *Scientology* and three of its members were found guilty of breach of trust for conducting espionage against the Canadian government – the first time in Canada that a church had been found guilty of criminal activity. The church was also found guilty of libel against the Canadian prosecuting attorney.
- In 1996 David Mayo, also a former Scientologist, won a long legal battle against *the Church of Scientology* in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The court stated that the Church had been playing “*fast and loose with the legal system*” by filing countless frivolous motions, employing “*evasions, misrepresentations, broken promises and lies, destruction and concealment of documents*”.

Actually, *Scientology* spends about 30% of its money on lawsuits, trying every legal and illegal trick to prolong the case. Although it is almost certain that they eventually lose the case in court, it is their policy to make life for former members and critics as miserable as possible. Many ask what kind of a religion it is that spends so much money harassing its enemies.

- In 1995, the 36 year old Lisa McPherson died while in the “care” of *Scientology* at the headquarter in Clearwater, Florida.

Lisa had been a member of the *Church of Scientology* for 18 years, but became disillusioned and wanted to get out. That’s when church members say she began to act strangely. On November 18, 1995, Lisa was involved in a minor car accident. She was apparently not hurt, but she got out of her car and seemed mentally unstable. She was taken to a hospital where she was physically evaluated as being unharmed, but the hospital wanted her to be psychologically cared for. However, some Scientologists arrived and stated that Lisa did not believe in psychiatry, and she checked out after a short evaluation. *Scientology* staff promised that she would be cared for 24 hours a day. Lisa was then taken to nearby *Scientology* headquarters, the Ft. Harrison Hotel for “rest and relaxation”.

On December 5, 1995, however, Lisa McPherson was dead on arrival at a hospital 20 miles north of Clearwater. According to the coroner’s report, Lisa was underweight, severely dehydrated, and had bruises (from ropes?) and bug bites. McPherson’s family filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the church in 1997, alleging she was held against her will. State Attorney Bernie McCabe charged the church with felony counts of abuse and neglect of a disabled adult, and unauthorized practice of medicine. The trial will be held next year.

- The *Watchman Expositor* has on file many published accounts of intense harassment and abuse of former members, media reporters, television companies, newspapers and magazines, lawyers, and even trial judges who had anything to do with either criticizing or bringing *Scientology* to justice. Two articles detail the chilling accounts of consistent harassment and acts of intimidating experienced by various judges assigned to significant lawsuits against *Scientology*.

These are not just a few individual cases. *Scientology* operates a *Guardian Office* that actually trains its people for that purpose and functions essentially like a secret service organization. Not surprisingly, *Scientology* policy is to “*NEVER agree to an investigation of Scientology*”.

For many observers, *Scientology* is not just a somewhat aggressive religion, but *quite likely the most ruthless, the most classically terrorist, the most litigious and the most lucrative cult the country has ever seen* (Former Cult Awareness Network executive director Cynthia Kissler on *60 minutes*, December 28, 1997). Today, Reader’s Digest’s characterization of *Scientology* as a *multi-national racket masquerading as religion* is valid more than ever before.

8.2.3 A threat to Democracy (Government and Society)

There is a history of conflict between *Scientology* and the governments of several European countries, which are willing to scrutinize and restrict groups that identify themselves as religions, yet have a history of abuse or subterfuge. In Germany, which is very sensitive to totalitarian, anti-democratic organizations and movements *Scientology* is viewed by many as an actual, and potentially serious, threat to the state.

About 3 years ago the German government, I believe it is the only one in the world right now, decided to take actions against the continuing spread of *Scientology*, because it realized the danger of the growing influence that the organization already has on the community level. German officials cite the many civil and criminal convictions of *Scientology* and Scientologists around the world and *Scientology*’s written policies, which institutionalize these abuses.

One such document is Hubbard’s Policy Letter of August 15, 1960, titled *Department of Government Affairs*. The policy states

The object of the Department is to broaden the impact of Scientology upon governments and other organizations and is to conduct itself so as to make the name and reputation of Scientology better and more forceful. Therefore, defensive tactics are frowned upon. Only attacks resolve threats.

The goal of the Department is to bring the government and hostile philosophies or societies into a state of complete compliance with the goals of Scientology. This is done by high level ability to control, to overwhelm, and introvert such agencies. (as in the case of the IRS)

A series of court rulings against *Scientology* resulted in the German government’s decision to put the *Church of Scientology* under nationwide surveillance by counter-intelligence agents, because it contends that the church is a threat to democracy.

True to their “always attack” policy, *Scientology* began to retaliate. They took out large full page ads in major U.S. and international newspapers. The ads accused the German government of returning to its Nazi past, paralleling the Nazi treatment of Jews with the current persecution of *Scientology*. *Scientology* celebrities John Travolta

and Tom Cruise, and others, were used to send a highly publicized celebrity letter from the U.S. entertainment industry to the German government with the same sort of charges. The letter included the names of Dustin Hoffman, Goldie Hawn, Oliver Stone, Larry King, Gore Vidal, and 29 others. *Scientology* also used its celebrities to move the U.S. State Department to pressure the German government in its annual Human Rights Report. *Scientology* even filed a suit with the European Commission of Human Rights claiming persecution and discrimination.

Most of their efforts have backfired. The European Commission on Human Rights threw out the discrimination case. The comparisons of the treatment of Scientologists with the Jewish holocaust drew angry and loud protests from Jews in the U.S. and Germany. who were outraged that *Scientology* would trivialize the Holocaust in this way. None of the abuses claimed by *Scientology* could be documented by the sect and the claims about the outcomes of various German court decisions are simply false.

And while Madeline Albright and the State Department did issue a mild rebuke to the German government for its actions against some individual members of *Scientology* they also issued a strong denunciation of *Scientology's* ads, calling them “historically inaccurate and totally distasteful”.

Unfortunately, the US government keeps its eyes shut to the criminal activities of *Scientology* because it masquerades and claims immunity under our First Amendment. The German Government, however, simply refused to let a foreign government interfere with its affairs and continues the surveillance of the *Church of Scientology*.

8.2.4 Involvement with the Occult

It is a known fact that Ron Hubbard was active in black magic prior to writing Dianetics. Hubbard was a devout follower of *Aleister Crowley* of the Ordo Templo Orientis, a magician's sect organized in Europe in the early 20th century that very likely descended from the traditions of the Chaldean sorcerers described by the prophets Daniel and Jeremiah. Crowley also studied Egyptian magic and Egyptian sorcerers are mentioned in Exodus. It should be noted that this form of magic is not a hoax but more real than most people like to believe.

Hubbard's fascination for Crowley's magic becomes quite obvious in a recording of his 1952 Philadelphia Doctorate Course, which was held after Hubbard visited Crowley's estate and assumed the mantle of “The Beast”, which is an alternate name for Satan. According to Hubbard's son, Hubbard assumed the throne of “The Beast” when Crowley died. Crowley appears to have spurned Hubbard's “research”, where he attempted to conjure the Anti-Christ through the “Whore of Babylon” in a magic ritual at the Pasadena Ordo Templo Orientis.

Some observers suggest that Dianetics, and by extension *Scientology* as well, is an extension of Hubbard's black magic “research” of that time. *Scientology's* teaching that an Operating Thetan can manipulate the universe through his mental powers,

and the employment of psychic powers and out-of-body episodes as a means for the Thetan to re-realize his or her true powers, are strong indicators for the church's acceptance of the realm of the occult. Further, Hubbard's own son goes so far as to affirm that "*black magic is the inner core of Scientology*". Hubbard himself allegedly confessed that a spirit entity guided him throughout his life and a number of scholarly researchers have verified the occult nature of Scientology.

8.2.5 The War on the Internet

The "War on the Internet" is the war between the *Church of Scientology* and Internet users who copy their documents and post them on the Internet.

The people who are copying their material and webbing it are using the huge accessibility of the world-wide web to get information out to people to warn them of the insanity and danger of *Scientology*. The hope is that if they can get this information out to the public and make it broadly known then people will be forewarned and will not join the cult. If they can starve *Scientology* of new members in this way, then the whole organization may collapse and then the existing members can be helped to return to society.

But of course the people within the cult believe only their own founder's interpretation of things so they use every means they can to stop this. Usually the method they use is harassment through lengthy and expensive legal processes. Sometimes it is physical harassment. Sometimes worse!

The people who post and host the copyrighted and confidential works of *Scientology* are risking themselves to help warn the public about the dangers of *Scientology*. They have a strong sense of public duty and care for their fellow men. They are breaking copyright laws, but they are acting out of conscience and out of love and compassion for those still in *Scientology*, in hopes that they will escape.

These notes could not have been written without the material provided by them.

8.3 Summary

Scientology is clearly a very dangerous cult. Its teachings are in sharp contrast with the Bible and its practices give rise to much concern. Although Christians with a sound biblical background will certainly not fall into the trap of *Scientology*, it poses a threat for those who think they could profit from the self-improvement techniques and thus embrace both Christianity and *Scientology*. The Bible tells us to

have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light (**Ephesians 5:11-13**).

For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God (**John 3:20-21**).