THE CULTS: CHAOS & CONFLICT Grace Community Church, Tempe Guy A. Davidson, Pastor



## SCIENTOLOGY — THE "SCI-FI" RELIGION!

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IN 1950 . . .

a science fiction writer, L. Ron Hubbard, published a book, *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. It was, basically, a do-it-yourself manual on psychoanalysis. It sold over 100,000 copies in its first three months. And Hubbard had a new career.

Dianetics clubs sprang up across the nation. People began probing into their prenatal lives because one of the theories of Hubbard was that present problems are caused by prenatal experiences! Hubbard set up dianetic foundations and institutes. They fell on hard times financially and faced increasing opposition from doctors and the scientific community. Some stated that dianetics was causing some to go psychotic.

And . . . Hubbard decided that with such opposition, he would change dianetics from a science into a  $\ldots$ 

## **RELIGION!**

Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution! and so out of dianetics came another religion on the pages of history! And another cult was born!

SCIENTOLOGY ... is based on Hubbard's thesis that what you want most in life is to survive. He presents eight "dynamics", four from dianetics and four that have evolved thru Scientology:

- 1. To survive as an individual.
- 2. To survive through sex and family.
- 3. To survive as a group (school, society, town, nation).
- 4. To survive as mankind.
- 5. To preserve animal and plant life.
- 6. To preserve the physical universe, including matter, energy, space and time.
- 7. To preserve spiritual existence.
- 8. To preserve immortal existence.

The eighth dynamic is called the "Infinity" or "God dynamic". About this Hubbard states:

"It is carefully observed here that the science of Scientology does not intrude into the Dynamic of the Supreme Being."

Yet, it claims to be a "religion", chooses to find its protection under the guise of being a religious organization, but is directed towards claiming to help you know yourself better — not God!

HOW THEY CLAIM TO DO IT ... it something that is a credit to the science-fiction skill of founder Hubbard. It centers around their terminology of "Orgs", "E-meters", "clears", "pre-clears", "engrams", "Boohoos" and "Thetans". The goal is to progress from "pre-clear" to "clear". In the process they claim that they will rid you of the "engrams" that are causing all the problems in your life! The progress is a very slow one — and very expensive!

THE BEGINNING ... is your introduction to an "auditor" or private counsellor. As a beginner or "prc-clear" you become involved in the "auditing" or processing.

A "magic device" invented by Hubbard (of course!) is used in this process. It is called an "E-meter", something like a crude lie detector. It looks like two empty tin cans connected to a galvanometer. As a "pre-clear" you take hold of the tin cans while your "auditor" asks you some personal questions.

The "engrams" they claim to be stored in your unconscious or "reactive mind" have really "fouled you up". The only was to get ride of them is thru this process — and they have the person hooked!

THE BASIS FOR THIS ... is in what they believe. In their primer, What Is Scientology, they state:

"Ron Hubbard started this research on the premise that man is basically good." But, they teach, stored up in man's "reactive mind" are compulsions and inhibitions that cause "unreasonable and uncontrolled behaviour." The primer goes on to say:

"Ron Hubbard's most remarkable discovery (and one which is changing the course of mankind) is this: The source of man's reactive mind can be contacted and erased."

**THE** "AUDITING" CONTINUES ... as they seek to reveal the details of your past! probing ever deeper! According to them, the truth does come out as you hold the two tin cans of the "*E*-meter" and your "auditor" puts on the pressure for "the truth"! Because —

THE "ENGRAMS"... are causing the problems in your "reactive mind" and by "remembering" you are on your way to "recovery"! The claims for the revelations in this process are almost unbelievable — and rather irrelevant to reality!

In his book, *Have You Lived Before?*, Hubbard goes even further! He encourages his followers to probe their previous existences for those pesky *"engrams"*. This belief in reincarnation is one of the glaring theological errors in this supposed religion!

Hubbard says that the "Thetan" (the immortal spirit) has been around for 74 trillion years! These inhabit bodies — though it may be millions of years in between "appearances"! Anyway, all of these have influenced your "reactive mind" and thus your "engrams".

**BECOMING** "CLEAR" . . . of these devilish "engrams" is the process that requires the Scientology process. Remember they teach that these are there because of prenatal influences or previous existences! You move slowly thru eight grades of "clearness" until you are finally announced "clear". What a moment! Not many of his followers make it.

While "on the way" the process may cost from \$15 per hour for "auditing" and up! up! up! Claims have been made against Scientology for thousands of dollars because of their "auditing" charges! But Hubbard says:

"It would be worth ten thousand additional hours of time to recover and be able to use and apply the knowledge, experience and skills of a lifetime. One receives a bonus of increased health, happiness and longevity which is at least a hundred to one for each hour of therapy... If it takes a thousand hours, then blame the parents, not therapy."

He states that it should only take 200 or 300 hours to reach "clear". That means you can "do it" for \$7,000 to \$10,000! And many are spending and have spent small fortunes to line the pockets of Hubbard and his "team"!

IS IT A RELIGION? and this is the battle that rages! Seeking "Church status" for tax and other purposes has been and continues to be controversial. They do —

have rituals for marriage, christening, funerals — though they contain no reference to God or prayer. Their "services" are led by clerically robed leaders and are usually a pitch for Scientology though there is sometimes a lecture of some kind. Time says it is a sort of —

"religion of religions, combining parts of Hindu Veda and Dharma, Taoism, Old Testament Wisdom, Bhuddist principles . . . the early Greeks . . . " SCIENTOLOGY AND THE BIBLE (they have a book by the name!) is hardly compatible! In one passage John 10:28 is compared with what Hubbard has to say. He says:

"Life is basically static. Definition: A Life Static has no mass, no motion, no wave length, no location in space or time. It has the ability to postulate and perceive."

Not a bad interpretation of John 10:28!!!!????

LET'S COMPARE SCIENTOLOGY WITH CHRISTIANITY. and this is really the heart of the matter!

- 1. THE BASIC ASSUMPTION ... of Scientology is that man is basically good. This is not Biblical. Romans 3:23.
- 2. THE AUTHORITY ... Scientology bases all belief on sci-fi writer Ron Hubbard — and he keeps his followers under his Gestapo like control! For the Christian it is God! a relationship thru Jesus Christ! the Word of God, the Bible. John 14:6; 2 Timothy 2:14-17. What freedom the Christian has!
- 3. BELIEF IN GOD . . . and to the Scientology follower, God becomes unimportant! It does not take God into consideration! They have decided that whether or not God exists is unimportant! He is the heart of Christianity! Hebrews 11:6.
- 4. THE DOCTRINE OF MAN ... in Scientology is that man is deified! that he has the answers in himself! he is good and "is utterly incapable of error"! that man's reason will produce perfect behaviour and solve all the problems of humanity. Look at Ephesians 2:1-10 — a total contradiction!

IN THIS BRIEF LOOK AT THIS CULT... it is easy to see that Satan has another tool to deceive! It is difficult to believe that so many who are educated! responsible! leaders! can be so totally influenced! But they are! Why?

Hubbard wrote: "In 50,000 years of history on this planet alone, Man never evolved a workable system." But he came up with Scientology and says it is "a workable system. It is doubtful, if in forseeable history, he will ever evolve another... Man is caught in a high and complex labyrinth. To get out of it requires that he follow the closely taped path of Scientology."

IT SHOULD BE VERY "CLEAR"... that Scientology is not the way to God! is another in the maze of the cults that grips the imaginations! minds! hearts! and pocketbooks of millions of people!

As we near the coming of Jesus Christ, we will see more and more of these deceiving! demanding! destroying! The only way to a "clear" relationship with God is to confess sin! to trust Jesus Christ! John 1:5 - 2:2.

Are you clear?