

Overview of Scientology

Key Person, Date, Location

Scientology was founded by L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986) in 1954 in California. Major headquarters facilities are located in California and Florida.

Key Writings

Central texts include *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* and other works by Hubbard, along with *The Way to Happiness*.

Who Is God?

Scientology does not define God or a supreme being, but it explicitly rejects the biblical description of God. Instead, it teaches that everyone is a “thetan”—an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, though most are unaware of this reality.

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is rarely mentioned in Scientology. He is not considered the Creator, nor was he an “Operating Thetan” (a being in control of supernatural powers and cleared from mental defects). Scientology does not teach that Jesus died for sins.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not part of Scientology’s belief system.

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How to Be Saved

Scientology denies the existence of sin and the need for repentance. Salvation is defined as freedom from reincarnation. To achieve this, one must work with an “auditor” to eliminate “engrams” (negative experience units) and reach the state of “Clear.” From there, the individual progresses up the “Bridge to Total Freedom” to higher “Operating Thetan” levels, gaining eventual control over matter, energy, space, and time (MEST).

What Happens After Death?

Scientology teaches that hell is a myth and heaven is a “false dream.”

Other Facts, Beliefs, or Practices

Members observe the birth of Hubbard and the anniversaries of Dianetics publications. The group has faced global controversy, with damaging exposés published by *Time Magazine* and *Reader's Digest*. Organizations affiliated with Scientology include Narconon, Criminon, the Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE, Hubbard College of Administration, and Applied Scholastics.