

# Scientology: QUICK FACTS

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**Founded:** The Scientology religion was founded in the 1950s by L. Ron Hubbard who was born in 1911 in Nebraska. Mr. Hubbard's well-known book *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* was first published in 1950. It reached the *New York Times* bestseller list that year and again in 1988.

**Headquarters:** The Church of Scientology International is the mother church of the Scientology religion. International headquarters are located in Hollywood, California.

**Size:** The latest edition of the organization's publication *What Is Scientology?* lists 373 churches and missions (plus hundreds of "related organizations" which are not directly comparable to congregations) in 129 countries. As of 2005, there are approximately 500,000 adherents.<sup>1</sup> It is one of the wealthiest of the new religions. Celebrities such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta, and Kirstie Alley are only a few of the Hollywood faithful who actively endorse Scientology.

**Main teaching:** According to Scientology, practicing Scientology can help alleviate such things as unwanted sensations and emotions, irrational fears and psychosomatic illnesses (illnesses caused or aggravated by mental stress) as well as increase one's spiritual awareness and ability and help one realize one's own immortality.

**Concept of God:** Scientology affirms the existence of a Supreme Being, but does not include the worship of one. Scientology believes that only through total spiritual enlightenment can one truly discover and understand the Supreme Being.

**Concept of Jesus:** Hubbard rejected Christ's deity and mission as figments of unenlightened minds.

**Concept of Man:** "...man is a spiritual being whose existence spans more than one life and who is endowed with abilities well beyond those which he normally considers he possesses. He is not only able to solve his own problems, accomplish his goals and gain lasting happiness, but also to achieve new states of spiritual awareness he may never have dreamed possible. Scientology holds that man is basically good, and that his spiritual salvation depends upon himself, his relationships with his fellows and his attainment of brotherhood with the universe."<sup>2</sup>

**Afterlife:** Scientology claims that death is endlessly repeatable through reincarnation and is hence almost inconsequential. Scientology teaches that we all have lived past lives and that upon death a person is reincarnated into the flesh of another body.

**Salvation:** In the tradition of certain Eastern religions, Scientology teaches that salvation is attained through increasing one's spiritual awareness. The complete salvation of the person, called "Total Freedom" in Scientology, is attainable through the practice of Scientology religious services. "As one's spiritual awareness grows through practicing Scientology, so does his ability to determine his own answers and solutions about life, the spirit and eternity, and to know them with absolute certainty."<sup>3</sup>

**Goals:** Scientology claims to help a person with the tools to "handle the upsets and aberrations from past lives that adversely affect one in present time, thus freeing one to live a much happier life." Scientology also seeks after a civilization without insanity, without criminals and without war, where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights, and where man is free to rise to greater heights.

**Ceremonies:** Sunday services are held regularly in Churches of Scientology. Scientology ministers also perform naming ceremonies for the newborn, weddings and funerals.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.adherents.com/Religions\\_By\\_Adherents.html](http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bonafidescientology.org/chapter/02/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bonafidescientology.org/chapter/02/page09.htm>



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