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## Scientology

Posted by supermom - 2005/10/14 19:06

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Tom Cruise and Katie have been in the news alot lately and we currently have a thread under current events regarding this subject. I have to admit I do not know too much about scientology, therefore it is easy for me too make judgements. I would be interested in hearing more if anyone has any info. Is scientology just a belief system or is it a religion? Do they pray to a god? Everything they talk about on the news seems a bit crazy to me, but again I do not know much about it. It does seem more like a cult than a religion. Any insight would be great.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by netty - 2005/10/14 19:12

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<http://www.scientology.org/>

To aid in our quest to understand ... this is the official church of scientology site.

I guess we'll look to Tara to tell us officially whether this discussion belongs in the spirituality forum or not. I personally, do not feel it is a religion but more a belief system...however, some do consider it religion. Tough call for ya here Tara. For the record, I'll understand whichever choice you make.

I would like to ask that if we have any members who are scientologists, please come forward and explain it to us.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by netty - 2005/10/14 19:15

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I think it can't possibly do any harm here in spirituality, but it is being discussed fairly intensely elsewhere and maybe it needs to be restricted to here.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by Tara - 2005/10/14 19:29

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Fishers of men; Oil on panel by Adriaen van de Venne (1614)Religion (see etymology below) —sometimes used interchangeably with faith or belief system—is commonly defined as belief concerning the supernatural, sacred, or divine, and the moral codes, practices, values, institutions and rituals associated with such belief. In its broadest sense some have defined it as the sum total of answers given to explain humankind's relationship with the universe. In the course of the development of religion, it has taken many forms in various cultures and individuals. Occasionally, the word "religion" is used to designate what should be more properly described as "organized religion" – that is, an organization of people supporting the exercise of some religion, often taking the form of a legal entity (see religion-supporting organization).

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

This article does not discuss "cult" in its original sense of "religious practice"; for that usage see Cult (religion). See Cult (disambiguation) for more meanings of the term "cult".

In religion and sociology, a cult is a cohesive group of people (often a relatively small and new religious movement) devoted to beliefs or practices that the surrounding culture or society considers to be far outside the mainstream. Its marginal status may come about either due to its novel belief system or because of its idiosyncratic practices.

However, in common usage, "cult" has a negative connotation, and is generally applied to a group by its opponents, for a variety of possible reasons.

It does fit the definitions for both religion and cult.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by Tara - 2005/10/14 19:35

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Buddhism is a religion that doesn't have a higher power or "god" that people pray to or worship.

Technically Scientology is a "religion". I think it's a dangerous one made up of a lot of brain washing. They have also been able to have it classified as church too in order to receive tax breaks.

The more I learn about Scientology the more it scares me.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by momof2gg24 - 2005/10/14 19:46

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There are several cases where children have won divorces from their parents that are scientologists. I actually have a friend that lost her daughter because she refused medical treatment for her because they had to use pain meds after the surgery. The little girl had hydro just like my daughter. Most cases revolve around chemo and blood transfusions... The reason why most people consider Scientology a cult is because of the way they "deal" with the new people..... The more I know of Scientology the more I worry about the effects of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and several others who take their leaders word over the words of medical doctors.

Buddhism is both a religion and a culture. I will try and find the website that I had for Buddhism.

I did a report on Buddhism. There are elements of Buddhism and Hinduism in Christianity.

~~Heather

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by Dionysus - 2005/10/17 08:11

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I am not a Scientologist, but I believe that it can be discussed here under the umbrella of Religion & Spirituality

I classify it as a religion but I do not know if Scientologists call it a religion. I think it is clear that they explore the realms of "quality of life" (why we are here, etc.)

but I have nothing further to add.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by Mandy - 2005/10/18 12:38

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Here's what it says on [http://www.beliefnet.com/story/80/story\\_8057\\_1.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/80/story_8057_1.html)

- Belief in Deity

Scientology considers the belief in a God or gods as something personal and therefore offers no specific dogma. The nature of the Supreme Being is revealed personally through each individual as s/he becomes more conscious and spiritually aware. There exists a life energy or force (Theta) beyond and within all.

- Incarnations

There are no particular human incarnations of God, as the universal life force (Theta) is inherent in all. All humans are immortal spiritual beings (thetans) capable of realizing a nearly godlike state through Scientology practices.

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- Origin of Universe and Life

All is manifestation of the universal spirit, which is all that actually exists.

- After Death

Rebirths continue until one consciously confronts all pre-birth, current-life, and previous-life traumas and realizes one's true nature as a "thetan," immortal spirit--transcending matter, energy, space, and time. Achieving this state enables the spirit to escape the cycle of birth and death--to operate independently of the physical universe and become one with God.

- Why Evil?

Painful experiences and harmful acts in one's prebirth, current, and past lives become imprinted in the reactive mind and lead to irrational behavior. Departures from rational thought and untrue ideas ("aberrations") can result in wrongdoing.

- Salvation

Salvation is achieved through the practices and techniques of Scientology, the ultimate goal of which is to realize one's true nature as an immortal spirit, a thetan. The path to salvation, or enlightenment, includes achieving states of increasingly greater mental awareness--Pre-Clear, Clear, and ultimately Operating Thetan. An Operating Thetan is a spirit who can control matter, energy, space, time, thought, and life. Practitioners ("Auditors") are regarded as ministers and counselors who assist others to achieve self-enlightenment. Auditors help others to identify their prebirth, current, and past-life disturbances, which are obstacles to happiness and spiritual enlightenment.

- Undeserved Suffering

Suffering occurs as part of the spirit's entrapment here in the physical universe. Only when the individual is aware of his spiritual nature can he identify his barriers within the universe and overcome them, rising out of a lower state and into a higher state of happiness and freedom.

- Contemporary Issues

Based on the belief that you cannot free yourself spiritually without working to free others, Scientology has founded and supports many organizations for social betterment, particularly in the areas of drug abuse, crime, psychiatric abuse, government abuse of law, human rights, religious freedom, education, and morality. Scientology strongly favors the use of their methodology for spiritual/mental healing over the use of conventional treatment.

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## Re:Scientology

Posted by netty - 2006/06/10 03:44

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"Thanks, Tom Cruise and the Church of Scientology, for your expert advice on mental health," says this ad featured in LA Weekly. The ad continues, alerting readers that a woman was killed "by the schizophrenic son she was told to treat with vitamins instead of psychiatric care."

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

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