CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, April 6, 2014

The DIFFERENCE

SCIENTOLOGY



WHERE CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENTOLOGY DIFFER:

1. SCRIPTURES:

Scientology: writings of L Ron Hubbard

Christianity: Bible

“All Scripture is God-breathed . . .”

2 Timothy 3:16 (p. 1102)

2. GOD:

Scientology: Although Hubbard and many of his followers are theists, belief in God is not essential to Scientology.

Christianity: God is Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is personal, all-powerful, eternal, spirit, present everywhere within his creation, and unchanging in his perfection.

The God who made the world and everything in it

is the Lord of heaven and earth . . .

Acts 17:24 (p. 1022)

3. JESUS:

*Scientology:* Christ has no essential or central place in the sect's teachings. In Scientology Jesus’ identity is very confusing and in some ways defamed attitude toward Christ.

*Christianity:* "God sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (p. 979)

4. SALVATION:

Scientology: Their practices release you from psychological hang-ups so you can live on a higher level now and in the next life

Christianity: Only by the grace of God and faith in Christ can one know forgiveness and a right relationship with God.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ISSUE | CHRISTIANITY | SCIENTOLOGY |
| Date Founded | c. 30 AD | 1954 AD |
| Founder | Jesus | L Ron Hubbard |
| Adherents | 2 billion | ?? 250,000 max ??  11,000 Churches, Missions and affiliated groups in 167 nations. |
| Sacred Text | Bible (OT & NT) | Writings of Hubbard |
| View of Text | Word of God | Infallible |
| View of Bible (OT & NT) | God’s Word | Corrupted |
| Worship Facilities | Church, chapel, etc | Church |
| Day of Worship | Sunday | Sunday |
| Religious Leaders | Priest, bishop, archbishop, pope, pastor, minister | L Ron Hubbard 1954 -1966  David Miscavige |
| Sacred Rituals | Communion, baptism | Celebrate weddings, funerals, naming child, Hubbard’s Birthday etc. |
| Symbols | Cross, dove, fish | Scientology Symbol and Cross Symbol |
| Identity of Jesus | Son of God, savior | Confusing, one of many great teachers or a memory implant thus fictional |
| Humans | Created in the image of God | Ancient beings who have existed for millions of years, inherently immortal |
| Mode of Revelation | Prophets, Jesus in Bible | L Ron Hubbard |
| Human Nature | Original sin through Adam, continue to sin | Basically good but has been led into evil |
| Salvation | By grace through faith in Jesus | Man is basically good, but "engrams" (psychological hang-ups) prevent him from reaching his full potential. When released from these engrams through the sect's techniques, man begins to live on a higher level in terms of his own human achievement. |
| Afterlife | Eternal Heaven or Hell | Death is known as "dropping the body." When a person dies, he (the thetan, or spirit) has been pre-programmed to "return" to an "implant station" out in space. In the implant station, the thetan will have all memories from the most recent lifetime electronically erased, and then the thetan will be sent back to earth to "pick up a new body," or start another life. |

