



Christian Identity Ministries

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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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"ESSAYS ON SECRET AND FAMILY WORSHIP"

Restoring the Christian Life, pt 4

by Rev. Brian M. Abshire, Ph.D.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

"Come you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord" Psalm 34:11.

Introduction: the Teens Are AWOL!

Being the brand new pastor of the most prestigious church in town, I was trying hard to watch my P's & Q's. I had made my mind up BEFORE taking this job that I would adopt a low profile at first and try to change as little as possible. Sure the weekly "special" music was not to my taste, the organist was a bit of a pain, and there were lots of little things that needed attending to (like praying that God would convert half the congregation!). But since I was the new kid on the block (and my congregation was largely composed of people over seventy!), I decided that I would spend most of my time preaching, teaching and visiting the "saints," while seeing how things developed in other areas.

However, there were some things that needed immediate attention. Like most broad evangelical churches, toddlers were automatically placed in the nursery. Slightly older children were dismissed immediately before the sermon for "Primary Praise." For those between 10-12 there was "Junior Church." The teens (there were only a handful) were allowed to sit in the balcony together.

But each week, I noticed an interesting phenomenon. A few minutes after the sermon began, one by one the teens would start leaving the balcony. OK, nature WILL call on occasion, but EVERY WEEK? And why should it affect the ENTIRE youth group (all five of them)? And how come NO ONE ever came back until just before the closing hymn?

Being a naturally suspicious sort, I asked Carl, one of the deacons, to check the situation out for me. Sure enough, the very next week, as the sermon began, the teens started disappearing. I gave Carl the subtle sign that we had agreed on; "Hey Carl," I yelled, "Go find out where those teenagers are going." Five minutes later Carl appeared in the balcony with our missing teens trailing behind. He spent the remainder of the sermon watching them like a guard dog.

It seems that some years before, when the church had had a youth pastor, the teens had been granted permission to be released from the service so they could watch "worthy" Christian videos in the fellowship hall downstairs. Though the Youth Minister had been gone for over a

decade, the practice had continued, unabated (and even worse) un-noticed until now. The rationale was that the young people found the service "boring" and the oldsters were afraid that they would grow up and leave the church unless they found SOME means of keeping them in the building on Sunday morning. Watching "Christian" videos seemed like a good compromise. So years after the Youth Minister was only known as "Good Old What's His Name" the teens continued to wander downstairs during the sermon to watch "Christian" TV, which now consisted of Heavy Metal "Christian" Rock groups.

Now these were not "bad" kids. It's not as if they were smoking dope downstairs or plotting subversive activities or the like. And in one respect, they were only doing what their parents were doing upstairs; just choosing a slightly different form of spiritual amusement!

HOW TO LOSE YOUR KIDS

But the really pathetic thing was that the parent's strategy didn't work. Remember above when I mentioned that most of my congregation was over seventy (for the first year I was at that church I couldn't help feeling I was preaching to a cotton field, (since all I could see were little puffs of white hair in the sanctuary). My question was, "Where are your grown up children?" Unlike most communities today, their kids had not all moved away after finishing school. The vast majority of the church had grown up

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